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Champion
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Val wins battle over cut to care funding

Chance meeting led to fairy tale romance for plucky pensioners

VALENTINE'S DAY WEDDING IS JUST THE TICKET!

Valentine's Day wedding date for Tony and Jill

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A VALENTINE'S Day wedding was the fairy tale end to a chance meeting between two love-struck plucky pensioners.

Jill Cohen, 68, and former marine commando, Tony Warren, 76, tied the knot at Banks Methodist Church this week.

It was a moment Jill, from Ormskirk, thought would never happen as just three years ago she had been confined to a wheelchair for ten years after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Tony, meanwhile, was busy climbing Mount Everest at the age of 75!

But fate stepped in when Tony, from Hesketh Bank, bought a raffle ticket off Jill when he visited Rufford Old Hall where she works as a volunteer.

Former teacher, Jill lost her first husband to cancer 21 years ago. She moved into sheltered housing because of her disability having been told she had a form of MS in 1998.

She was unable to feel her legs below the knee and as her condition worsened, Jill ballooned to 25 stone and was taking insulin for her diabetes.

As her condition deteriorated, she was concerned that the heavy medication she was taking wasn't helping her chances of recovery, and on medical advice she stopped taking all the morphine she was on and took another pain killer which transformed her life.

And helped by 'vigourous' dieting, Jill's weight came down considerably.

She told the Champion: "I was on a terribly heavy dose of morphine, I was sleeping my life away. As soon as I came off it I woke up.

"Once I had lost five stone I decided that I wanted to try and walk again. I had no feeling below my knees, and it took months, but I did it."

The next step was to get her driving licence back and for her 67th birthday she got a new motability car which she uses to get to Rufford Old Hall. And, remarkably, due to losing so much weight Jill no longer needs to take insulin and has been taken off the diabetic register.

Continued inside

What's the plan for Derby Street bridge?

MP seeks answers about future of Grade 2 listed structure

ROSIE Cooper has called on Lancashire County Council to confirm what its plans are for the Grade 2 listed Derby Street bridge in Ormskirk town centre and how much they are going to cost.

The bridge, which forms parts of the A570 and crosses over the Ormskirk-Liverpool railway line in the town, has been subject to an 18-tonne weight restriction for more than two years as a result of its poor condition.

But the West Lancs MP says residents are still in the dark about what remedial works are planned, how much they will cost and when they will begin.

However the county council say the project is a "priority" for the authority and work will begin "in the coming months."

'Shocking'

Ms Cooper said that the county council had reported in August 2015 that costs for a replacement bridge were in the region of £2.5m to £3m, while "a strengthening and widening scheme" would cost between £3m and £4m.

But she claimed those figures differed from more recent council estimates which put the cost of remedial works at between £750k and £2.5m, with full bridge replacement estimated between £5m and £7m.

She said: "It is shocking that the council have still not decided on the best approach after two years of so-called investigations during which time the bridge's condition will be getting worse and an often ignored weight restriction is in place.

"The county council need to explain what plan of action they are proposing, exactly what the costs are and when the work is intended to start.

Continued inside

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Nine-bay extension constructed from ready-built modules will be craned onto site and linked to existing unit

Health chiefs confirm plan to expand hospital A&E

Report by **Tom Martin**

HEALTH bosses have confirmed that Southport Hospital's A&E department - which is used by adults in West Lancashire requiring emergency treatment - is to be extended.

The news was announced last Friday, two days after the Champion exclusively revealed the plan to our readers.

Southport and Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust were tight-lipped when the Champion approached it last week but have now acknowledged that the £1.25m project will go-ahead and preliminary work at the site is already underway.

Once complete the extension will help reduce overcrowding and improve care for patients. It is also hoped the new building will help reduce 'ambulance stacking' at the hospital.

The scheme will also increase the number of patients who can be seen and treated, as well as reduce waiting times and ease pressure on admissions at busy periods.

The centrepiece of the improvements will be an 80 square-metre, nine-bay extension constructed from four ready-built modules.

They will each be lowered into position by crane into an internal courtyard, connected together and linked to the A&E department by a short corridor. The work is expected to be completed by the middle of April.

Trust chiefs say that during the spring and summer, improvements to the existing A&E will create a more spacious, modern environment with an improved ambulance handover area and better access for disabled people.

Therese Patten, chief operating officer, at the trust, said: "This is wonderful news. Our local population is older than average with many very poorly, frailer patients, meaning these improvements are very much needed.

"Over the past three years, there's been an almost 10% rise in patients coming to A&E. The team regularly sees at least 150 patients a day and last summer saw the highest level of attendances on record.

"I'm proud to say, however, that despite these challenges staff working together across the trust still manage to deliver a service that scores well when compared with neighbouring hospitals.

"The work will reduce overcrowding at the busiest times, improve the experience of care for patients and provide a better environment for our staff."

Last month, the Government announced that an additional £1.3m grant should be given to the trust to help it cope with winter pressures. The extra funding was part of an immediate £337m boost for NHS hospitals over the winter.

In February last year, Southport A&E department was one of 24 casualty units across the country that were marked for potential closure or significant downgrading as part of national NHS cost-cutting measures, sparking fears that patients would be at serious risk travelling further afield for emergency treatment.

In 2003, the children's A&E unit at Southport Hospital was closed, meaning children and teenagers aged up to 18 have to travel to Ormskirk for emergency care. Adults living in West Lancashire need to travel to Southport for urgent treatment.

Ambulances wait for patients to be seen at Southport Hospital A&E - it is hoped the new extension will help cut waiting times

'This is wonderful news. Our local population is older than average with many very poorly, frailer patients, meaning these improvements are very much needed.'

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Autism Initiatives Group, which began almost 50 years ago by a mother in Maghull and now has many services throughout the UK, is organising Walk for Autism to raise money for people with autism and their families.

It's thought that over 1 in 100 people have some form of autism, which may result in difficulties or differences in communication, social interaction, thinking and in sensitivity of the senses.
But helping people with autism can make a difference.

Mark, a young man from Southport, said, "I was bullied because I was different and I became distraught. But [thanks to Autism Initiatives] my life changed. I have more confidence, and am happier."
Those who want to step up to the challenge can walk anywhere during the week – alone or with family and friends. You can join others across the country to walk 10,000 steps a day for eight days and raise money that will help positively change lives for the better.

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Valentine's Day wedding is just the ticket for plucky pensioners

From Page 1

Jill's type of MS is now in remission and she now enjoys walking unaided, with new-found love Tony, who also has some amazing achievements to tell.

Tony lost his wife four years ago. He served as a marine commando with the Royal Navy and was one of the advance party in the Falklands conflict. After leaving the armed forces he became a leader of a cadets force and went into forensic accounting, assisting the courts with investigations into money laundering and fraud.

Among his pastimes are walking and mountaineering and for his 75th birthday, Tony climbed to Base Camp 2 on Mount Everest - 6,400m above sea level! This year he will take part in a sponsored non-stop 36-hour walk from Winchester to Eastbourne (104 miles).

Jill tells of how they hit it off: "The first time we met, Tony bought a raffle ticket off me. Our first date was in Old Rufford Hall, in the cafe, and we were talking so long that they virtually kicked us out. .

"That was last summer. Everything clicked. We are very much in love, and delighted to spend the rest of our lives together."

Following their wedding the couple planned to host a lunch at Rufford Old Hall followed by a party for friends, family and residents. They plan to have their honeymoon in spring.

Val wins battle over care funding cut - with a little help from the Champ!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A PARALYSED West Lancs woman who was told funding for her care was going to be cut has had the decision reversed after she appeared on TV and in the Champion.

But although relieved that an agonising year-long wait is over, Valerie Thompson says the stress of the ordeal has impacted her health.

The 61-year-old said: "They do not realise what they are putting people through."

Valerie, from Newburgh, was left paralysed from the waist down after she fell downstairs in 2013 and spent nearly a year in Southport Hospital spinal unit.

She was assessed as being in need of NHS Continuing Healthcare Funding to pay for carers to look after her at home.

But the funding was put in jeopardy following an assessment last February which said she should be put under the care of the local authority. This meant that she and her 65-year-old husband John would need to contribute to costs, something she says they couldn't afford to do.

After contacting West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, appearing on BBC North West and being featured on the front page of the Champion, Val, who also suffers from weakness in her upper body, says she was visited by a director from a Commissioning Support Unit and an independent assessment was arranged.

And following that assessment, which was also attended by social services, district nurses, her carers, and the Spinal Injuries Association, Val's funding was restored.

She said: "It was obvious when they did the full assessment rather than just the box-ticking exercise that they did in February that mine is a complex case and certainly not 'routine and predictable', which is the reason they gave me for their decision in February.

Val Thompson who has won a reversal of cuts to her care funding.

"Being told the funding would be restored was a great relief. We have had over 12 months of worry and stress. It's stressful enough having a disability without having this hanging over you."

Val says that Rosie Cooper was instrumental in prompting an investigation into her funding issue but she added: "If I hadn't talked to the Champion and other media I don't think I'd be where I am today."

A spokesman for the NHS said he could not comment on individual cases but added that if new information emerged during a dispute resolution process, which had not been taken into account beforehand, a decision on the awarding of healthcare funding could be changed.

Meanwhile, Douglas Valley Lions, based in Lathom and Newburgh are raising £15,000 to buy a specialised wheelchair to help Val stand up.

MP seeks answers about work on town-centre bridge

From Page 1

"The county council also need to be clear about the problem and its solutions as the costs for the project seem to be all over the place, ranging from £750k to £7m depending on what report you're reading.

"The bridge forms part of an important route through the town and an already congested Ormskirk cannot sit and wait for it to fall down and cause traffic misery for its residents."

In response, a spokersperson for Lancashire County Council stated: "A report to cabinet in January 2018 outlined that £2.684m has been made available to support a project to strengthen the Derby Street bridge, which once completed will see the current weight restriction removed.

"This will be a complicated process for a number of reasons including its Grade 2 heritage listed status; access for repairs being difficult due to its position over the railway; and the fundamental design of the bridge which does not meet modern standards and is not designed to cope with today's heavy traffic. This is a priority for the county council. We have given careful consideration to the best way forward and will begin work on this project in the coming months."

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County Council budget will see Council Tax increased by 6%

Leader says 'tough decisions needed to balance the books' but Labour slams 'cowardly cuts'

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council has agreed that their part of the overall Council Tax bill will increase by 5.99%, double the rate of inflation.

The council tax increase is on top of the police precept which has increased by 7.25%. The borough council precept will be decided later this month.

Councillors also voted through £11m of cuts at the meeting, including saving £5m by making changes to staff terms and conditions. Some of the proposed cuts will now go to public consultation.

The 5.99% increase includes a 3% increase specifically for adult social care.

County council officials said the budget has been designed to protect front-line services, especially for vulnerable members of society. They said this will be done by "future-proofing" improvements to critical services for the most in need in the communities.

Council leader, County Councillor Geoff Driver, said: "The council is committed to providing the best services it can to the people of Lancashire, particularly to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Councillor Geoff Driver

"However the council's financial position remains extremely challenging, with a forecasted funding gap of £144.084 in 2021/22.

"This has meant that tough decisions have had to be made to balance the books. This is not unique to Lancashire and many other local authorities are also having to make hard choices.

"I am pleased though that we have been able to make many improvements over the past year, including reopening libraries and supporting bus services in the county.

"The council also plans to spend a further £5m next year on road repairs, something which we know is important to the county's residents and businesses.

"We are working very hard with our staff to ensure that we can continue to provide vital services for people, and we have put in an extra £25m for vulnerable adults and children to ensure the safeguarding of those members of society."

However the Labour group was highly critical of the proposals.

Labour leader, County Councillor Azhar Ali, said: "A 6% Increase in Council Tax is twice the rate of inflation and twice the average wage increase. The people of Lancashire are being asked to pay more for less. These are cowardly Conservative cuts!"

Proposals put forward by Labour which were rejected included £1 million extra into permanent pothole repairs, then £1 million a year for four years; reversal of the decision to cut lines and signs renewal by £500,000; reversal of the decision to cut street light maintenance by 50%; and the ring fencing of £4 million for pothole repairs from the Capital Programme.

Care trust sexual health team reaffirms commitment to equality and diversity

WITH February designated LGBT History Month, Lancashire Care's Contraception and Sexual Health Service (CaSH) is reaffirming its commitment to equality and diversity and calling on the need to prioritise sexual health.

The CaSH service was commended in 2016 for providing a service that is inclusive of gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, and was awarded the Lancashire LGBT Quality Mark, part of an assurance programme for service providers that assists in measuring how well the needs of LGBT service users, volunteers and staff are met.

Amy Nolan from CaSH said: "The service is dedicated to ensuring the needs of all service users are met, and health and wellbeing is promoted in all of Lancashire's different communities, regardless of background and sexual preference.

"The Lancashire LGBT Quality Mark bears testimony to this and we encourage people to visit us and take their sexual health seriously. We offer a dedicated and professional under-25s service to all of our clients. People from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community can be rest assured that they will be welcomed at all of our clinics."

To contact your local CaSH team, book an appointment or find out about 'drop-ins' call 01772 401140. There are clinics in various locations and different session times across Lancashire.

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West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper and Councillor Maureen Mills (2nd left) with some of the speakers at the meeting at Haskayne Village Hall.

MP pledges total support for fight against fracking

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper joined residents concerned about proposals for fracking at Altcar Moss at a public awareness meeting at the weekend.

The meeting at Haskayne Village Hall was organised by members of the recently-formed Moss Alliance, an association of groups opposed to the plans by the Aurora Energy Resources.

The company, which has submitted a scoping request to Lancashire County Council with a view to submitting a planning application to mine for shale gas at Altcar Moss, has arranged a 'community engagement' meeting - also at Haskayne Village Hall - for this Saturday, February 17.

This will run from noon to 6pm and managing director, Ian Roche is expected to attend.

The pubic awareness meeting was organised to give residents an opportunity to raise their concerns ahead of the company's event.

Borough councillor Maureen Mills, chairwoman of Halsall Against Fracking, who had called on residents of Halsall, Great Altcar, Haskayne, Downholland, Barton, Formby and surrounding areas to attend, said the meeting was a great success with about 100 poeple attending.

She said: "West Lancashire's MP, Rosie Cooper attended the meeting and she pledged her total support for the residents' opposition to fracking on Altcar Moss."

Also among those speaking at the meeting, which was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, were Jim Nisbet, former chair of Roseacre Awareness Group, John Wilkinson, of Frack Free Formby and Helen Rimmer of Friends of the Earth.

The morning session included an update on the current status of the scoping request/planning application; details of how the industry has impacted upon residents on the Fylde; the geology of the area under consideration; and a presentation on how "fracking is not compatible" with the UK's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Maureen added: "The afternoon session was totally focused on providing the forum for the residents to discuss all their questions and concerns raised before and after the speakers' presentations. It was apparent that many had researched the subject in depth for themselves before the meeting.

"An additional important point arising was that the so-called 'Gold Standard' regulation of the industry is not ultimately responsible for its effects. It is the industry itself that is responsible and questions will be posed with that in mind."

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Surrender operation offers public a chance to bin knives

LANCASHIRE Police is participating in a week of action aimed at reducing knife crime by encouraging people to surrender their knives at local police stations, including Skelmersdale.

Operation Sceptre, running from February 12 to 18, is a national campaign targeting knife crime and those who carry knives.

While knife crime in Lancashire is no worse than many other parts of the country, the police are keen to stress that any incident involving a knife could have tragic consequences and destroy lives.

Chief Inspector Mark Baines, of Lancashire Police, said: "Too many families have been affected by knife crime, even one person being stabbed is one too many. The consequences of carrying and using a knife can be devastating and potentially life-threatening.

"I would appeal directly to people that if you know someone who is carrying a knife, don't keep silent. Report it.

"The law is simple - it is illegal to carry a knife, even if it belongs to someone else. Anyone found carrying a knife and intending to use it as a weapon - even in self-defence - can be arrested, go to court and receive a police record or even a prison sentence of up to four years and an unlimited fine.

"Knife bins are being used at nine police stations in the county - Blackpool, Burnley, Preston, Skelmersdale, Morecambe, Fleetwood, Greenbank Blackburn, Chorley and Nelson - during the surrender where people can hand in any knives.

"These need to be safely wrapped in tape and newspaper before putting in the bins.

Knives binned in West Lancashire during a previous knife surrender

"If anyone is in possession of a knife and is unsure what to do about it, I would urge them to take this opportunity to dispose of it anonymously and safely."

Officers will also continue to carry out test purchase operations to ensure that retailers are not selling knives to people under the age of 18.

Chief Inspector Baines continued: "Lancashire Police has a zero tolerance policy toward possession of knives in public and we take reports of knife crime very seriously. We will act on all intelligence received in a bid to prevent people losing loved ones and to detain those who intend to commit acts of violence using knives.

"If you have information about the possession of knives or offensive weapons or criminal activity relating to this type of crime, make a report online via the Lancashire Police website.

"You can also report information anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner added: "I fully support Lancashire Police's involvement in this campaign to remove knives from our streets.

"Knives are deadly weapons and you will be arrested and prosecuted if you are caught carrying one. If you own a dangerous knife I'd urge you to protect both yourself and those around you by handing it in safely and anonymously.

"Campaigns such as this play an important role in reducing crime and re-offending, a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan. I'm committed to making our neighbourhoods safer and anything that helps to achieve this can only be a good thing."

Police station front counter to close at end of March

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Force says move will not affect policing

THE front counter at Ormskirk Police Station is set to close to the public permanently on Thursday, March 29 as part of cost-cutting measures by Lancashire Constabulary in the face of a reduction in Government funding.

Meanwhile the front desk at neighbouring Skelmersdale Police Station will continue to provide a front counter service but with greatly reduced opening hours from April 1.

Ormskirk is one of 10 under-used police station front counters in the county to be axed.

The move follows a review carried out by the constabulary and Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw which revealed that as few as three people a day were visiting some of the counters, with people preferring to report incidents over the phone or online.

The force says that closures will not affect the way areas are policed but, along with reduced opening hours at remaining front counters, will deliver more than £1m in annual savings of the £19.8m that it needs to find by 2020.

The changes are based on a detailed business case which looked at front counter usage across Lancashire throughout the year and follows a public consultation which saw 91 responses.

Police say that feedback from the public and stakeholders was reviewed but no viable alternatives have been presented to deliver the savings needed.

Inspector Martin Bishop, of Lancashire Police, said: "The decision to close some of our front counters has not been taken lightly. It follows what has been a very thorough review and a period of staff and public consultation.

"That review showed a significant decline in visitor numbers - some down to changes in processes like immigration checks and some vehicle checks which have moved online - but in the main it is due to improved technology and greater use of phones.

"The front counters which will close serve between three and 10 people a day, while the demand on the contact centre is reaching around 2,500 calls a day.

"Members of the public in affected areas will still be able to contact local officers, engage with local policing teams and gain the help and support they need; it is just the way they do it which will change."

Commissioner Mr Grunshaw added: "The proposals in the consultation were based not just on reducing costs but also recognising that the public are choosing to engage with the police in different ways."

Members of the public will still have access to the yellow telephones at each station and where appropriate will be able to make appointments to see local officers at the stations.

Ormskirk Police Station will no longer provide a front counter service to the public after March.

Scouts lend a hand at collection in aid of mayor's charities

MEMBERS of the Ormskirk District Scouts joined the Mayor of West Lancashire's Charity Committee for a collection at Booth's supermarket.

The event at the Burscough store raised a grand total of £331.90 for the mayor's chosen charities this year, the 42nd Ormskirk (Skelmersdale St Paul's) Scouts; Evermoor Hub; and The Sewing Rooms in Skelmersdale.

Mayor, Councillor Neil Furey, said: "I would like to give thanks to Booths for kindly allowing this collection to take place and to their customers for their very generous donations."

Members of the Mayor's Charity Committee and Ormskirk District Scouts at the collection at Booths supermarket.

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Fire crews issue warning about dangers of wood burning stoves

FIRE Crews in West Lancashire have issued a safety warning about the dangers of using wood burning stoves.

Skelmersdale firefighters have spoken out after they attended their third fire this year which was caused by combustible items being stored too close to wood burning stoves.

In the latest incident crews were called to a fire in South Drive, Appley Bridge at 8.50pm on Saturday, February 10. The fire involved the outbuilding at the rear of the domestic property.

The fire started by items falling onto or being too close to a wood burning stove.

The occupier had attempted to extinguish the fire using a garden hose.

Two working dogs had been sleeping in the shed prior to the fire starting and the occupier removed them. They had become overcome by smoke and heat.

Revived

Fire crews used special oxygen masks for use on animals, which were provided by smokey-paws.co.uk charity. The masks had been donated just two weeks before by the @vets-forPetsGroup from Burscough.

One Labrador was revived at the scene by fire crews and taken to an emergency vet by the owner. One Springer Spaniel could not be saved.

Crew manager at Skelmersdale Fire Station Andy Hamilton commented: "This is the third fire since this year that crews from Skelmersdale have attended caused by combustible items being stored too close to wood burning stoves.

"Members of the public should be aware that wood burners are an increasing cause of domestic fires if care is not taken while using them."

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Solicitors' Charity Will Month scheme raises £12,000-plus for The Civic

STAFF and clients at a local law firm have helped to raise more than £12,000 for a not-for-profit community venue which promotes cultural and artistic activities.

The team at Dickinson Parker Hill solicitors in Ormskirk raised the fantastic sum of £12,231.74 for The Civic in Southport Road by taking part in the annual Charity Will Month in November.

During the promotion clients at the Derby Street firm were invited to have simple wills and codicils drawn up in return for a donation to the scheme rather than the usual payment for their services.

This is the eighth year that the scheme has been running and again proved popular with many new customers taking the opportunity to put wills in place while helping a local institution in the heart of Ormskirk.

The total now raised since 2009 by the company is more than £92,000, all of which has gone to causes in West Lancashire.

Partner, Michael Prendergast, said: "Many of our clients use The Civic and it's nice to see how the efforts of all our staff during the Charity Will Month will benefit the local area."

And Liz Wainwright from The Civic commented: "We were absolutely delighted to have been chosen by Dickinson Parker Hill as their charity this year. We are extremely grateful to them and their clients.

"The money raised will be used towards the refurbishment of our main hall."

During a busy November, staff at the firm - Michael Prendegast, Alexandra Kenyon, Allison McCormick, Joanne Owen and Alice Wright - saw more than 200 clients between them, ably assisted by Pauline Winrow, Dawn Joyce and Lyndsay Burns in preparing the wills.

Michael Prendergast added: "This year is the most we have ever raised in one month.

"We would like to thank all our clients for their support and I would also like to thank all our staff for all their hard work and professionalism in supporting the scheme."

Michael Prendergast (left) and colleagues from Dickinson Parker Hill solicitors present cheque to Liz Wainwright (centre right) and Gemma Briscoe of The Civic.

Town centre paving like 'an obstacle course' - claim

Report by **Kenny Parker**

OFFICIALS of the Our West Lancashire independent political group have described pedestrianised areas of Ormskirk town centre as "an obstacle course in places" as a result of a backlog of repairs required to cobble and paving.

Jane Thompson, the group's Scott Ward spokesperson says they have received many comments from local people about the poor state of paving in the town centre and reports of people stumbling and falling.

She said: "A fall for a frail, elderly person can be life-threatening. It is simply not good enough that paving repairs are taking so long for the county council to deal with.

"We even raised the matter with the borough council's chief executive in a meeting last September for her to raise with senior managers at the county council, yet the situation has worsened further since then."

Ms Thompson said that loose cobbles outside Poundstretcher on Church Street was just one example. She said: "The cobbles are so loose they can be lifted out by hand. There are deep gaps between them and some of them are protruding. Poundstretcher's manager has raised it with one of my colleagues.

"But there are also other areas of badly damaged paving in Aughton Street and Burscough Street. Ormskirk's pedestrianised areas are more like an obstacle course in places."

Ms Thompson said that she had written to the county council requesting action.

Our West Lancashire's Jane Thompson highlights loose cobbles in Church Street.

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council responded: "We inspect the busy pedestrianised areas in Ormskirk town centre on a monthly basis to check for uneven paving or any other defects and will repair any block paving that projects an edge of 2cm or more.

"We carried out some repairs outside the Church Walks entrance on Church Street recently and will check for any further defects in the locations about which concerns have been raised."

Ports group chief to chair West Lancashire College board

MARK Whitworth, chief executive of one of the UK's biggest port groups, Peel Ports, has been appointed as the chair of the board at West Lancashire College.

His role with the college will include oversight of relationships with stakeholders, ensuring that the college maintains a broad and balanced curriculum offer that is responsive to local needs. He will also monitor the quality of provision delivered to learners.

He said: "I live locally and have visited the college several times previously, so I'm well aware of the excellent facilities and courses it offers.

Mark Whitworth

"As the chief executive of a large employer, I also understand the skills and abilities we're looking for in the next generation of talent, who will deliver and lead our services in years to come.

"There's no doubt West Lancashire College can make a real difference to learners, employers and the local community.

"I'm looking forward to meeting students and staff in the coming weeks and helping everyone associated with the college reach their full potential."

Denise Williamson, principal of West Lancashire College, commented: "This is a really fabulous appointment for the college and I am sure that we will benefit from Mark's experience, alongside the support and expertise of our existing board members, as we move forward."

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Long-serving foster carers recognised at celebration lunch

A COUPLE from West Lancashire were among foster carers from across the county honoured at a special celebration lunch at County Hall, Preston.

The event was organised by Lancashire County Council to recognise those carers who have been fostering for at least 25 years, caring for more than 400 children in total.

Ann and Billy Hansen from West Lancs have been foster carers for 39 years and looked after 125 youngsters.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I'm delighted to recognise the incredible efforts made by our foster carers. I'd like to offer my personal thanks to each of them.

"All of our foster carers work tirelessly to improve the lives of looked-after children in Lancashire. We recognise the importance of the work that they do. This lunch is a very small token of our appreciation marking the length of time that some of our foster carers have carried out this incredibly important role for.

"For many years now they have all opened up their hearts and their homes to provide children with a secure and loving place to live, and they make a massive difference in improving children's lives each day."

Long-serving foster carers pictured with members of the county council at the celebration lunch in their honour

The lunch was hosted by county council chairman, Skelmersdale Central councillor Terry Aldridge, who said: "It was a pleasure to recognise our foster carers in this way. I enjoyed spending time with them and personally thanking them for their incredible contribution.

"Fostering is such a tremendous thing to do, as it gives children the opportunity for the childhood that they deserve, a childhood that otherwise they may not have had. I'd like to say a personal thank-you to all our foster carers."

The county council is currently recruiting new people who can foster all ages of children, particularly siblings who need to stay together and teenagers. No formal experience or qualifications are needed, all that is required is a spare room and the desire to make a difference to a local child's life.

A package of support is available 24/7 to help foster carers in their role, including local support groups, their own social worker, a dedicated helpline and flexible training.

To find out more, call the fostering recruitment team on 0300 123 6723 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering.

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The award-winning West Lancashire College Performing Arts students and fellow nominees

Students honoured at drama awards

BUDDING thespians from West Lancashire College claimed a clutch of honours at the North West District 6 National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards held at Southport Theatre and Convention Centre.

During the evening, amateur theatre nominees received medals, bars, badges and certificates from the society to show appreciation and to commemorate their years of service to amateur theatre.

And performing arts students from the college were nominated for a total of 14 awards, eventually taking home five for performances in *Treasure Island* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Jamie Duncan and Niamh Donnelly won the Best Lead Male in a Play and Best Lead Female in a Play, respectively.

Daniel Grace was named Best Male Supporting Actor in a Play, and Most Entertaining/Comedy Female Actor went to Georgia Bannister and Amy Heap.

The winners must now wait to see if they are nominated for the Regional Awards to be held in Manchester in May.

Course tutor, Deb Fletcher, said: "It was truly a wonderful evening for West Lancashire College Performing Arts department.

"We have extremely talented and committed students and are super proud of their success at the awards and the recognition they have received."

Their next production is Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, to be staged at the Hope Theatre at West Lancashire College on Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16. To book call, 01695 52300 or email enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk.

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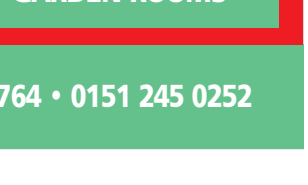

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Edge Hill politics students get to interview Mr Speaker

STUDENTS at Edge Hill University were given an opportunity to learn more about the world of politics when they interviewed Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow.

The Conservative MP visited the Ormskirk campus to deliver a guest lecture entitled *Order! Order! The Making of a Modern Parliament*.

Afterwards second-year public relations with politics students, Jessica Kieran and Jessica Potter, and lecturer Paula Keaveney, asked him a series of questions about his career, changes in government and the difficulty of leading a 'normal life.'

Jessica Kieran said: "It was an amazing opportunity to meet with John Bercow. His lecture was inspiring and the way he engaged with students and the rest of the community was wonderful."

And Jessica Potter commented: "It was great to find out more about John Bercow's role at the House of Commons and how he has changed and developed it over time."

Paula Keaveney added: "It was really great to hear about Mr Speaker's work first hand. Events like these are an important part of Edge Hill's approach to studying politics."

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Renwed campaign to reduce medicine waste

Report by **Henry James**

HEALTH commissioners in the borough are reminding residents of the importance of tackling the issue of medicines waste.

One year on from the launch of their programme, *'Being a hoarder is out of order'*, the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has marked the anniversary with a renewed campaign entitled *'Don't be a waster'*.

Dr John Caine

It comes after a successful first year of introducing the new system for ordering repeat prescriptions.

The programme, which was introduced in November 2016, aimed at helping to tackle the growing issue of medicines waste, which costs the NHS an estimated £300 million nationally and £600,000 a year locally in West Lancashire.

Additionally, the programme also looked to address the safety issues that are posed by keeping unused medicines at home if they get into the wrong hands.

The CCG has released a story-so-far report, which is available on their website at www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk

Dr John Caine, local GP and chair at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "In the year since we launched our programme for ordering repeat prescriptions, the early signs are that this is working.

"We have seen a significant reduction in medicine costs, which is due to a number of initiatives of which the medicines waste programme is one.

"We have seen fewer wasted medicines because of patients having discussions with their GP and pharmacists and only ordering what they need.

"Our local patients have really embraced technology with a huge increase in the amount of people using Patient Access to order and manage their repeat prescriptions."

The re-launch of the medicines waste programme also coincides with the expansion of the CCG's Prescription Ordering Direct Service (POD) across West Lancashire.

The POD, which was originally trialled in 2017 as a pilot in Skelmersdale, is a prescribing hub based within GP practices, with local medicines co-ordinators, who are qualified to deal with prescriptions and offer medications advice.

It is currently based within the Skelmersdale Family Practice with plans underway to open new PODs at Manor Primary Care in Skelmersdale and at Stanley Court in Burscough and Burscough Medical Centre.

Nicola Baxter, head of medicines optimisation at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "Following the launch of our medicines waste programme, we wanted to continue to offer support to residents in the management of their prescriptions, so we introduced the POD pilot in Skelmersdale.

"The pilot has proven to be really popular and as a result we will be expanding further in Skelmersdale and Burscough.

"With the introduction of our PODs, we'll be looking at how we can continue to support our more vulnerable residents, to ensure that everyone gets the support and help that they need when ordering repeat prescriptions, whilst we also collectively help to look after our NHS by ensuring that we stop ordering medicines that are not needed."

The CCG is encouraging patients who have used the POD to share their feedback, by completing their online survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WLCCGPOD. Paper copies are available from within the POD and upon request by calling 01695 588 203 for any residents who do not have Internet access.

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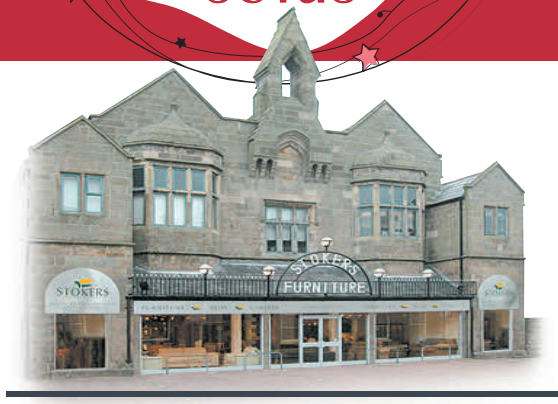

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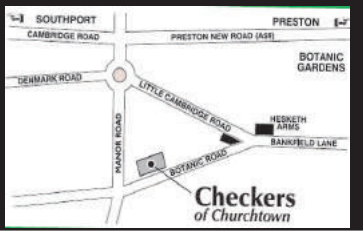

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MP supports call for improved care for blood cancer patients

Report by **Henry James**

Rosie Cooper is calling for better care for blood cancer patients

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is supporting calls to improve blood cancer care for patients in the borough after attending tthe inaugural report launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Blood Cancer.

The report makes a number of recommendations including that GPs should immediately request a blood test for anyone presenting with one or more symptoms of blood cancer.

Blood cancer symptoms can be vague, with patients often reporting general fatigue, night sweats, weight loss, or bruising, all of which can be mistaken for other, less serious conditions such as being run down or flu.

Because of this, they often have to visit their GP significantly more times than other cancer patients before being referred to hospital for diagnosis.

Rosie Cooper said: "Blood cancer is the fifth most common cancer in the UK and someone is diagnosed every 14 minutes. Despite this, general awareness among the public, health professionals, and policymakers is very low and we must work together to change this across the country and in West Lancashire.

"Unlike solid cancer tumours, blood cancer cannot be surgically cut out, and consequently blood cancer patients have a very different experience to other people with cancer. Currently they are not receiving the treatment and support they deserve and I am calling on the Government and NHS England to urgently address the specific needs of blood cancer patients in West Lancashire and take immediate steps to improve their care."

The report, T*he 'Hidden' Cancer – The need to improve blood cancer care*, concludes that the Government's 2015 Cancer Strategy is not doing enough to support blood cancer patients and that patients feel let down.

It also recommends:

- NHS England should ensure psychological and emotional support is available to patients and families from the point of diagnosis and throughout treatment. This is particularly important for patients put on Watch and Wait treatment programmes, and not given treatment straight away.
- All blood cancer patients to be assigned to a clinical nurse specialist (1 in 10 patients do not have a CNS).
- Better joined-up working between primary and secondary health services, and between oncology and haematology teams.

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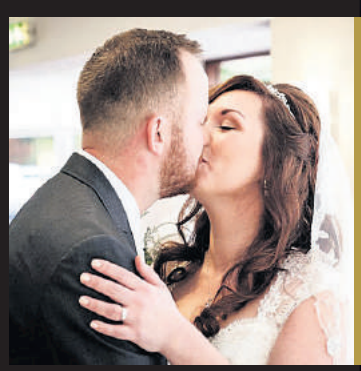

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Cut councillors' expenses instead of asking public to pay more for police

CLIVE Grunshaw's demand for a 5% increase in the police precept, is totally unsustainable for the ratepayers of West Lancashire.

The police presence in Aughton is zero. I have not clapped eyes on a bobby for three years.

I would suggest the commissioner's post be scrapped and his department closed down.

This would give the police the necessary funds, to give the public the service they pay for.

We are being charged exorbitant rates plus a £30 bin charge for green waste.

What we now get for the rates has been fazed out year upon year.

I would suggest that all councillors accept a pay cut of 15% to their expenses, which are also paid for by the ratepayers, of both the county and borough. We ratepayers have had enough.

J. Burgess, by email

Young people who will be most affected by Brexit didn't have a say

IF I wanted to see reactionary political views I would read the Sun or the Daily Mail.

When the Champion drops through my letterbox I want to read local issues and not have a soapbox for bigoted political views masquerading under the seemingly harmless title 'One Man and His Dog'.

When Brexit and the transition period finally happens there will be young adults aged 23 and 24 who will have to accept a situation which was taken when they were not allowed to vote.

The older people will have decided for them.

However when it comes to the future we are the ones leaving this 'mortal coil' and the young are the remainers.

It is time they were given the vote at 16 to take back control of their future.

Stephen Henders, Barton

Good Samaritans got me back on the road

ON Monday, February 5, my car wouldn't start as I left the payment booth at the petrol station at Asda.

The cashier immediately came to my assistance and tried to push the car to a safe place while I steered. Fortunately, a gentleman saw our predicament and also came to help.

When I was in a safe place I was trying to make a phone call to get help when another gentleman, named Ray, tapped on my window and asked if he could help and offered to use his jump leads to try to get my car started.

It was to my great relief that he was successful and although I offered to pay him, he wouldn't accept and was just happy to have helped.

As I am a senior citizen, the help I received was greatly appreciated and through your pages I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all these kind people. I will never forget them.

Nancy Evans, Up Holland

PICTURE of the week

Nimble fingers: The Sewing Rooms social enterprise in Skelmersdale recently held a session for local Syrian refugees who honed their sewing skills and produced an embroidery to celebrate their visit. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Spar closure sad loss to village shopping scene

SO it's farewell Spar Town Green

Your closure was probably inevitable but we will miss your courtesy, your friendliness and the village 'feel' of your shop.

Many thanks for being part of the village scene - shopping in Town Green will probably never be the same again.

Doug and Jill Sinclair, Aughton

Disgusted by tone of 'sniping' letter

I WAS disgusted by the tone of the letter from 'Educated Brexiteer' printed in the edition of January 24.

Doctor John Watt and Maurice George expressed their views on Brexit and signed their letters.

If 'Educated Brexiteer' is as confident of his opinion as his letter would imply, why did he not sign it instead of sniping from behind a pseudonym?

Jenny Walton, Ormskirk

Hornby Station would be fitting tribute to Frank

HAVING watched the recently-shown Great British Railway Journeys, it occurred to me that it would be a fitting tribute to the great Frank Hornby for the new Maghull North station to be named Hornby Station.

Perhaps Michael Portillo could be prevailed upon to return to Maghull and officially open the station?

Name supplied, Aughton

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Despite all the scare stories we hear fracking is the 'least worst option'

I HAVE read all the usual scare stories on fracking.

Such exaggerations have been comprehensively disproved by preliminary tests and official investigations carried out by UK experts.

Each day I walk along the beach north of Liverpool where there are more than 100 wind turbines installed off shore.

I notice that these operate on the 80/20 principal - ie for 80% of the time only a very few are rotating and 20% of the time none are working at all.

I understand that the cost of power from wind turbines is projected to be very favourable in comparison with other resources, but only if there is much more utilisation than at present - currently either the wind is too weak to turn the blades or too strong and the methods of storing and harnessing the potential energy from higher rotational speeds have been under consideration for many years without fruition.

The regional mayor has recently suggested that a barrage should be built in Liverpool Bay at the mouth of the Mersey to harness tidal wave power.

St Malo in France built a barrage many years ago and in 1964 when I started at university such a model was built in the Fluid Mechanics department.

This was never followed up however because of cost considerations and the likely disruption to freight and passenger traffic to the Port of Liverpool during the build process.

Nuclear power still remains a conundrum since there is concern about the cost of construction using Chinese know-how and the current climate of industrial unrest.

The supply of fuel to Drax using 45 trainloads of biomass pellets sourced from the USA, Australia, Poland, Russia and South Africa each day clearly is not sustainable (and certainly not 'green).

North Sea oil may possibly be rejuvenated in the future.

However fracking, which is now well proven and safe, provides the least worst option - assuming the test results to be satisfactory from the current exploratory work in West Lancs/Sefton and elsewhere in the UK to determine suitability.

Colin Booth, by email

Residents' concerns are being ignored

FURTHER to the comments by Mrs M. Tarplee and Barbara Bellis (Letters, January 24), I would like to add my concerns and annoyance that, as a local paper, you have not taken up the deep-rooted concerns of many local people towards the proposed fracking by the Scottish energy firm Aurora, and now find ourselves living on a potential gasfield.

Countries like France, Canada - and in Great Britain, Scotland - will not allow this toxic industry on their land. Yet we in Lancashire have not been afforded same the rights as even our British neighbours in Scotland.

Despite the democratic process of objections and subsequent rejection by Lancashire County Council our so-called 'democratic' rights have been ignored by central government.

There is a lot at risk - water table, farming, wildlife and house values, and our children's future.

R. Morrison, by email

Home support service awarded 'good' rating by care watchdog

A CARE service that supports people with learning disabilities in their home has been rated as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

West Lancashire Domiciliary Service, run by Lancashire County Council, was given the rating following a recent inspection.

The service supports people by helping them to find suitable accommodation, arranging their tenancy and putting together a support plan to help meet their needs.

Help provided will depend on people's needs and funding packages, but could include support with household tasks, safety in the home and enabling people to take part in leisure and social activities.

County Councillor Graham Gooch

Commitment

County Councillor Graham Gooch, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult services, said: "The good rating is tremendous news for West Lancashire Domiciliary Service.

"It reassures people that the service is safe, caring, responsive to people's needs, effectively run and well-led.

"The service currently supports 39 people with learning disabilities to help them to live independently in their home. It is a vital part of the care system.

"The good rating is a reflection of the hard work and commitment that goes into managing and delivering this service."

Nicola Clear, head of the county council's disability service, added: "Inspectors spoke to people who use the domiciliary service and they were very positive about the support it provides.

"This is great to hear and I'm pleased that the service has been rated as good.

"Congratulations to all the staff who work at West Lancashire Domiciliary Service."

Father Godric Timney of St Anne's RC Church receives the award from Paul Kelly of CAFOD with parishioners looking on

Church wins award for the simple life

PARISHONERS from a West Lancs church community have been rewarded for their efforts to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty by receiving the *lives*imply award from international development charity the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD).

St Anne's RC Church, Prescot Road, Ormskirk is the first church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool to receive the award following a number of initiatives.

These included a weekend of events at the church which saw the parish sharing a lunch with a group of local asylum seekers, the children's group creating environment-themed artwork and other members of the community making individual pledges to go green.

In addition, the church holds annual collections for Asylum Link Merseyside, a charity supporting asylum seekers, and have hosted a Fairtrade breakfast, a 'swap shop' and organised a botanical survey of the church gardens.

The church is also planning to join a government scheme to support resettled refugee families.

Parish priest at St Anne's, Father Godric Timney, said: "I am delighted that St Anne's has been presented the *lives*imply award by CAFOD.

"For many years our parish has contributed thousands of pounds to the work of CAFOD and over the past year a group of committed parishioners has been encouraging us to live simply by avoiding waste and using our resources thoughtfully."

Paul Kelly, a *lives*imply assessor for CAFOD, said: "Congratulations to St Anne's parish in Ormskirk at becoming the Archdiocese of Liverpool's first *lives*imply parish.

"Starting with a *lives*imply weekend last July the parish has involved many of its 600 mass-goers in a wide range of initiatives. Working towards participation in the Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme for Syrian refugees will be a major commitment to living in solidarity for the next five years. Well done!"

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Pupils at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Primary School, Parbold, with the pre-loved stools.

School's commitment to recycling is top class

PUPILS at a West Lancashire school who have been voted top of the class at promoting recycling among family and friends have received a consignment of 'pre-loved' stools for their efforts.

Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Primary, Parbold was one of three schools in the county chosen to receive the sturdy stools by Lancashire County Council as part of its efforts to prevent good items going to waste.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "We had a number of nice wooden stools donated which have years of life left in them, perfectly suited for schools and we've awarded them to schools which met our challenge to encourage more recycling in their communities by including recycling tips and information in their newsletters and websites.

"The council is working hard to ensure more of the items that we receive at our Household Waste Recycling Centres get re-used and recycled. We try to rescue as many good-quality items as we can, and now have reuse shops at two of our sites to help put them back into the hands of people who want them.

"We are also asking people to think twice before throwing out things that may be of use to someone else.

"There are lots of convenient ways to do this, not just by taking things to our recycling centres. Donating unwanted items to charity shops helps them to raise much-needed cash.

"People should also think about using online options such as eBay, Freegle or GumTree, to sell or buy pre-loved items, and help reduce waste."

For more information about the reuse shops and recycling in Lancashire go to the website www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling.

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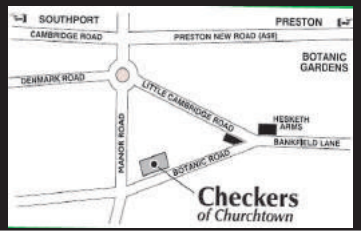

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Writers visit care home to mark storytelling week

RESIDENTS at a West Lancashire care home were visited by two local authors to mark National Storytelling Week.

Poet Tony O'Neil started the ball rolling at the Sutton Grange Care Home in Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks, with his humorous observations of everyday life.

Tony is the People's Poet of Liverpool, as well as the home's Poet In Residence, and regularly visits members of its Writing Club.

And he was followed by novelist, Awen Thornber who read from her latest book, Foxtrot In Freshby (a combination of Freshfield and Formby) as well as talking about her life as a writer and the literary influences of the two areas.

Christina May from the home said: "Everyone was delighted with the visits."

Novelist Awen Thornber chats to residents at Sutton Grange Care Home

Call for country trail clear-up

CALLS are being made to improve maintenance of the TransPennine Trail in Great Altcar.

The part of the path in that area is also known as the Cheshire Lines Path as it was created on the trackbed of the old Cheshire Lines and Southport Extension Railway.

Lydiate parish councillor Tony Robertson said: "The part of the trail through the Great Altcar part of West Lancashire has not been maintained and the surface is now rough and narrow considering that it is for walkers, cyclists and horse riders."

Councillor Robertson highighted one part of the path which farm vehicles regularly use near to Cabin Lane off Altcar Lane.

He said: "After the recent heavy rain it's a horrible muddy mess for walkers and cyclists.

"I know austerity will have played into the lack of maintenance but the decline in the surface well predates the financial crash.

"In terms of cycle riding areas of the path are now only really suitable for mountain bikes.

"I fear that if something is not done reasonably soon this long distance path is going to be compromised such that folks will stop using it especially in the winter months."

He added that he had made his views known to the authority with responsibility for the path in the hope that the issue will be addressed.

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Co-op's helping hand for community groups

COMMUNITY groups in West Lancashire are set to share in a bumper funding boost from the Co-op.

A total of 17 causes in the borough are among the latest beneficiaries of the Co-op's Local Community Fund.

These include the West Lancs and Sefton Myeloma Support Group; the Friends (PTA) of Tarleton Holy Trinity; the 1st Ormskirk Scout group; The John Marshall Fund; and Twinkle House, with each in line to receive several thousand pounds.

With 40 per cent of all charities surviving on an income of less than £10,000, the Co-op scheme will provide a considerable proportion of funding for many local causes.

When a Co-op member buys own-brand products from food stores or a funeral plan or funeral from Funeralcare they earn a five per cent reward for themselves with a further one per cent going to local good causes.

By joining the Co-op's membership scheme shoppers can contribute to the money raised for the good causes, and they can choose which of these causes they wish to support by logging on to the Co-op's membership website at www.coop.co.uk/membership

Difference

Zoe Holden, area manager for Co-op food stores, said: "Nationwide the local community fund is making a real difference to charities and good causes throughout the country.

"Since we launched the membership scheme in September 2016, 8,000 organisations have shared £20 million, and we are confident that this year we will raise a further £20 million to be shared among the latest 4,000 causes."

Artists' exhibition at Martin Mere

MARTIN Mere is playing host to an exhibition of works by the Sefton Artists group.

Featuring a selection of wildlife and nature-themed paintings, the exhibition will run in the main foyer at the Burscough centre until Thursday, March 22.

Anne Wilson, spokesperson for the group, said: "We are very pleased to exhibit at Martin Mere for the first time. This gives us a great opportunity to showcase our group's work. We meet at the Millennium Hall at St Thomas's Church in Lydiate every Thursday from 9.30am to noon and new members are always welcome."

For more details email Anne at wilsonanne024@gmail.com.

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The Dragons of the Pool has opened at the

Edge Hill lecturer behind exhibition recalling 'lost' story of shocking post-war repatriation

Report by **Henry James**

EDGE Hill lecturer Rosa Fong is behind a major exhibition exploring the little-known story of more than 1,000 Chinese sailors forcibly repatriated from Liverpool at the end of the Second World War.

The exhibition opened at Birkenhead's Williamson Art Gallery on Saturday (February 10) and runs until Sunday, march 18.

In 1946, the Liverpool Constabulary carried out orders from the British Government to deport Chinese sailors in Merseyside, many of whom had travelled to England as part of the war effort.

A total of 1,300 were forcibly repatriated to China with their wives and children believing they had been deserted until the release of declassified records 50 years later revealed the truth.

Rosa Fong worked with local community group, The Dragons of the Pool to document the stories of the surviving children of the seamen for the first time.

She said: "Liverpool Chinese actor David Yip told me about the forced repatriation and introduced me to Yvonne Foley who has been instrumental in having the episode acknowledged. Like many people, I was appalled by what had happened and wanted to bring the story to a wider audience."

The Dragons of the Pool is at the Williamson Art Gallery

Thanks to a £10,000 Heritage Lottery Funding, the year-long project has seen video interviews with the seamen's descendants, now in their 70s, recorded to capture this important part of British Chinese history for future generations. The project's research will then be archived in Birkenhead Library.

The exhibition is the culmination of the project, inviting the local community to engage with the history of Merseyside's Eurasian community. It will feature the iconic photographs taken by acclaimed documentary photographer, Bert Hardy.

It is hoped the project will help participants share their stories and educate the wider community about the shocking events of 1946.

Rosa added: "Many of the Dragons lament being cheated out of a relationship with their fathers, but the thing that struck me the most was their feeling of lost identity - not being able to connect with their Chinese roots.

"These families lived most of their lives believing that they had been abandoned by their fathers only to find out when it was too late that they weren't.

"I have already had a lot of feedback from the local community shocked that this happened in Merseyside. It has also shocked some Second World War experts who didn't know about the repatriations, so there is truly a case of hidden history being uncovered in this exhibition."

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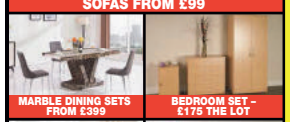
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Suffrage celebration prompts call for more women to get involved in politics

WOMEN in West Lancashire have been urged to get involved in politics at an event hosted by Edge Hill University to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Merseyside's Deputy Police Commissioner, Councillor Emily Spurrell, used the milestone celebration to encourage other women to seek careers as politicians.

Speaking at the 'Wonder Woman' event held at the Ormskirk university, Cllr. Spurrell recalled her own experiences in politics and encouraged others to pursue a career in public life.

She said: "I was delighted to support the Wonder Woman event hosted by Edge Hill University celebrating the victories of those early pioneers who campaigned relentlessly and put their own freedom, well-being and safety on the line to fight for our right to vote today.

"We have made huge strides forward over the last century, but there is still a long way to go. Sadly, being a woman in any field - but particularly in politics - can still make you a target for abuse, vitriol and even threats.

"Over the years I have often been described as bossy, but I have tried not to take that personally. Our society encourages men to be authoritative and to show leadership but in women it can all too often be branded as arrogance or self-importance.

"I attended this event to encourage other young women not to be deterred or put off if they face similar attitudes. My advice for the students I spoke to today was 'just say yes'.

"Put your hand up at every opportunity. Get involved. And don't worry if you are that lone voice in the room."

Merseyside's Deputy Police Commissioner, Councillor Emily Spurrell is urging more women to get involved in public life

The deputy commissioner also used the occasion to talk about the progress and achievements of women in policing.

She said: "2015 marked 100 years of women in policing. Nearly 41% of Merseyside Police officers and staff are women and we have two excellent female Assistant Chief Constables.

"I'm also proud to say that Merseyside is just one of three areas across England and Wales to have a female Police Commissioner and Deputy Police Commissioner."

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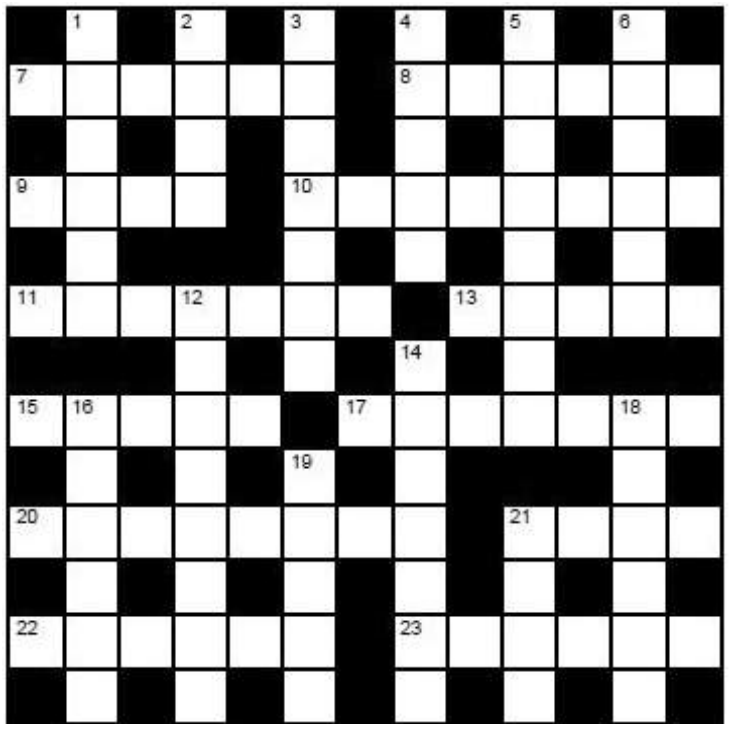

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Caress. 8. Nought. 9. Kiln. 10. Ablution. 11. October. 13. Refit. 15. Enact. 16. Strudel. 18. Lawmaker. 19. Tram. 21. Sat nav. 22. Unruly.

Down: 1. Taxi. 2. Reinforcement. 3. Escapee. 4.Ankle. 5. Cut the mustard. 6. Chlorine. 12. Cinnabar. 14. Stirrup. 17. Skive. 20. Ally.

ACROSS

7. Bring into existence (6)
8. That is to say; to be specific (6)
9. Rubber wheel surround (4)
10. Outer garments covering from the waist to the ankles with separate parts for each leg (8)
11. Irreligious or immoral (7)
13. Short, simple song (5)
15. Muscular, brawny (5)
17. Mistake, gaffe (7)
20. Cheerful friendliness (8)
21. Snack bar (4)
22. System or standard of measurement (6)
23. Inflict harm in return for an injury or wrong (6)

DOWN

1. Coloured wax stick used for drawing (6)
2. Very strong wind (4)
3. A vertebrate animal of a class that includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles etc. (7)
4. Pry (5)
5. Discharge, outpouring (8)
6. Purplish-red colour (6)
12. Situated at sea (8)
14. Against the law (7)
16. Runs away to get married (6)
18. Sculpture or model of a person (6)
19. Dress or top gathered at the chest with a loosely fitting lower part (5)
21. Group of people who operate a ship or aircraft (4)

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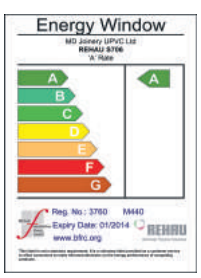

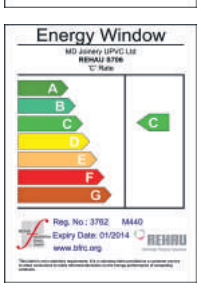

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Britannia could rule the waves again - with Lottery funding!

RULE Britannia, Britannia rules the waves . . . a good, old-fashioned patriotic song, a favourite of the Last Night of the Proms, but unhappily not really true in the present day.

Yet until as recently as 1997 we did retain one symbol of national maritime pride, one that even the mighty USA could not boast, the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

She was almost inevitably decommissioned by the then Labour Government because, of course, she cost too much to maintain, she was 'old-fashioned', 'irrelevant' in the modern world and not wanted on our voyage into a marvellous technological future.

I can remember the tears in Her Majesty's eyes at the decommissioning ceremony, and there were certainly some non-dry eyes amongst her crew as well. At the time there was talk of building a new, smaller (cheaper) *Britannia*, but this idea quietly sank without trace

So she is condemned to a permanent home as a floating museum in Edinburgh where, oddly, she earns quite a bit of money from visitors interested in this antiquated piece of history.

Now though, MP Craig Mackinlay and several of his Parliamentary colleagues have come up with a plan to build a new *Britannia*. Mr Mackinlay realises that there is little or no chance of persuading the Government to cough up the estimated £120 million needed to build the vessel and he has come up with a crafty plan to get round this.

Basically he suggests that we could set up a new National Lottery, specifically to raise the cash, an idea I would wholly endorse as so far as I am concerned this is a 'good cause' that I fully support rather than some of the potty causes that win the support of our present lottery.

Mr Mackinlay says that already a British firm has said it would provide the engines for the vessel free of charge, and apparently several naval designers have offered their services ditto. Other British companies have also volunteered various services and have climbed aboard.

If built, and at present I'm afraid it is a rather big 'if', the new *Britannia* would, I reckon, fit in very well indeed with our Brexit plans for trade deals with the rest of the world. A floating platform to show other countries that we have not only national pride, but that we can still build ships.

She would also be a splendid place in which to discuss trade deals. Her very presence would be a forceful reminder that this country is one of many and varied skills.

Naturally, the usual suspects have already come out to pour cold water on the project. I heard an MP on TV who said she doubted that anyone would want to put cash into a lottery to build a new Royal Yacht, rather than to build a new hospital, as if it were inconceivable you might have both.

And in any case, when you shell out for the National Lottery, does all the money made go to build hospitals? Do you have any say at all on what it is spent on?

Oh, and a crew would have to be found from the ranks of the Royal Navy. I would have thought that with the number of our warships at present tied up in naval dockyards, this would be a far better occupation for sailors to work properly than hanging about in shore barracks.

Of course we'd have to pay to maintain her also. Well, yes. But high by an individual's standards as this may be, a drop in the ocean I would think in terms of our national budget.

And her maintenance would provide employment for skilled craftspeople so this money really could hardly be called wasted, could it?

Merseyrail bosses urge union to 'get round the table' to end ongoing dispute

MERSEYRAIL say the initiative to get round the table to find a settlement to the current industrial relations dispute lies firmly with the RMT.

Bosses at the company have said that claims by the union that they have set a precondition to Liverpool Mayor Steve Rotherham's recommendation of independent conciliation are not true.

The union is opposed to plans to introduce trains where the doors are closed by the driver, a role usually performed by the guard.

Merseyrail managing director, Andy Heath, said: "I would appeal to RMT regional organiser John Tilley to get round the table with my team to work out a solution to the current impasse.

"The proposed changes to the method of operation in the new trains is not about increasing profits for shareholders, zero hour contracts or compulsory redundancies. The opposite is the fact. It is a fact that there will be no increase in profit for the shareholders associated with these new trains.

Report by **Henry James**

"It is a fact that guards will have their current terms and conditions protected should they accept an alternative job.

"It is a fact that not one single guard will be made compulsory redundant as a result of these changes.

"Finally, it is a fact that every guard will be offered a guaranteed job elsewhere in the business."

However, the RMT has said the starting point for talks is the removal of all guards and the union's general secretary, Mick Cash, said "Merseyrail's mask has slipped, and the Metro Mayor and the other politicians who have been echoing their nonsense need to decide whether they support the most profitable private train operator in the country or the passengers and rail staff who want to put safety first."

Merseyrail says the door is open for talks on the new trains, a computer-generated image of which is shown here

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Fast food restaurant given digital makeover

THE McDonald's restaurant in Ormskirk's Two Saints Retail Park in Park Road has been given a digital makeover.

Customers now have the option to use one of the restaurant's self-order kiosks which allow them to browse the menu, look at nutritional information and personalise meals.

Table service has also been introduced aimed at taking the stress out of finding somewhere to sit when carrying food, potentially with children, bags and buggies.

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Borough projects benefited from lottery funding to tune of £225,000 in 2017

Report by **Henry James**

NEW figures released by the National Lottery reveal that 18 projects in West Lancashire received more than £225,000 worth of lottery grant funding in 2017.

Top of the pile was the £67,854 awarded to West Lancashire Borough Council by Arts Council England for art to animate and regenerate the town centre.

Meanwhile Ormskirk Tennis Club; Crawford Village Primary School; Divine Days Community Arts; and Edge Hill University were each awarded £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund for car parking facilities; a sensory garden; a series of creative and physical arts-based sessions for vulnerable adults; and the Dragons of the Pool project respectively.

Altogether Animal Assisted Therapy and Learning CIC received £9,990 from the Big Lottery Fund to provide animal-assisted therapy for people suffering from dementia, and Little Digmoor Primary School was awarded £9,990 from the Big Lottery Fund to create an outdoor recreation area, including an outdoor classroom.

Holmeswood Methodist Primary School received £9,915 from the Big Lottery Fund to develop the outdoor area of the school, including fencing and planting areas and Holland Moor Primary School was awarded £9,910 to create an area for outdoor puzzle games and sensory tactile challenges.

Projects in West Lancashire benefited from a number of National Lottery grants in 2017

Pilot

West Lancashire Crisis and Information Centre was handed £9,910 to take on a community development worker to help with the planning and design of a new project and Crow Orchard Primary School was awarded £9,875, (13/06/2017) by the Big Lottery Fund to pilot a project to signpost parents and carers to projects offering counselling.

Rufford Cricket Club received £9,800 for equipment and the North West Volleyball Association was awarded £9,535 for the North West Volleyball Boys Academy.

Tarleton Holy Trinity CE was given £9,460 to create an outdoor area to provide quiet space for reflection or social interaction and Banks St Stephens CE, received £9,455 to create a trim trail within the school grounds.

North Meols Carriage Driving Group for the Disabled was awarded £8,220 by Sport England and Four Lane Ends Mission received £8,200 to resurface a community car park.

Ormskirk School was awarded £4,841 by Sport England for the Ormskirk School Leadership Programme.

To enter your favourite project in this year's National Lottery Awards, tweet @LottoGoodCauses with your suggestions or call 0207 293 3329.

Entries must be received by midnight on April 6.

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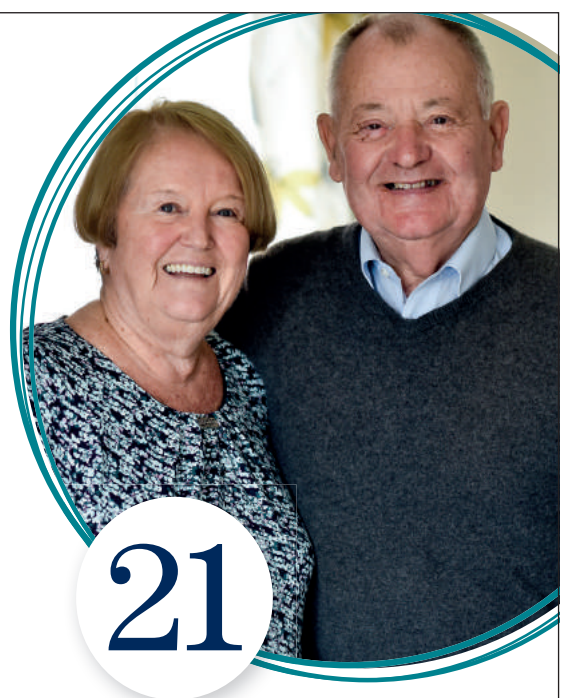

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Recruits wanted for school admissions appeals panels

LANCASHIRE County Council is seeking to recruit volunteers to help to decide on appeals by parents over school places in the county.

The authority wants people from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience to join its independent appeals panels. These are set up to consider appeals by parents whose children have missed out on their preferred school.

When a child is refused a place at a school or academy of their choice, they are entitled to appeal against the decision. Panel members will consider the reasons for the parents' choice of school, as well as the reasons why a place hasn't been allocated, and make a decision as to whether the refusal should be upheld or overruled.

County Councillor Susie Charles

Each panel consists of three people including a lay member - someone with no paid experience of education - and a person with some professional experience such as a teacher or governor.

A trained clerk will advise on legal and administrative issues.

Each of the panel members must be independent of the authority, school and the families involved.

Appeals take place throughout the year, but the majority are held between May and July. They will usually be heard for half a day or a full day depending on the amount received. Occasionally people will be required to be available for a full week.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "Independent appeal panels are very important and the work is so rewarding.

Training

"You don't need specialist knowledge or educational expertise. We need people with a good mix of skills and backgrounds who can bring different viewpoints and experience and fresh ideas with them."

Panel members should have good interpersonal and communication skills; good literacy and listening skills; ability to work as part of a team; and be prepared to keep all information confidential.

Appointments are for a term of three years.

No formal qualifications are required but individuals must be aged 18 or over; available during the day (Monday to Friday); willing to attend regular panel meetings throughout the county and willing to undertake training

Full training and support will be given to make sure people are fully equipped to carry out the role successfully.

Expenses are paid including reasonable travel costs.

To find out more or to request an application pack ring the central pupil access team on 01772 531656 or email shamim.javed@lancashire.gov.uk.

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Still time to enjoy half-term crafts fun

THERE'S still time - just - for youngsters aged five to 12 in West Lancs to take advantage of half-term fun creative sessions at council-run venues in the borough.

The Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk is hosting the 'BIG Dino Stomp' today (Wednesday, February 14) where children can create their own dinosaur wotld out of Play-Doh. Workshops take place from 10.30am to midday and 1.30 to 3pm.

And on Thursday February 15, artist Sarah Jane Richards will demonstrate how to create 'Bonkers Birds Puppets' at the gallery also from 10.30am to midday and 1.30 to 3pm. The workshop costs are £4 per child, per session and includes all materials. Adults and under-twos go free. To book, ring the gallery on 01695 571328 or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

The Tree House Gallery, Gift Shop & Cafe at Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale is hosting free craft fun from until Friday, February 16 with materials provided.

Sessions are from 10.30am to midday and 1.30 to 3pm. Places are limited so contact The Tree House on 07860 617 353 to check space before arrival.

Meanwhile, creative youngsters are invited to contact the Chapel Gallery about its Art Clubs.

For more information visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/chapelgallery.

Talkzone service is available to support county's youngsters every day of the year

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LANCASHIRE County Council wants to make young people aware of a support service that is available every day of the year.

Talkzone offers advice, guidance, support and information for young people between the ages of 12 and 19, and is available by phone, email, text, Facebook, Twitter and webtalk.

It is also available up to the age of 25 for young people with special educational needs or a disability.

The service, provided by the county council's Children and Family Wellbeing Service, is available everyday between 2 and 10pm.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I'm glad we have Talkzone available to help. I'm told that we received 1,500 enquiries in December alone, on a range of issues.

"Young people don't have to cope with their problems alone on any day of the year, as Talkzone is always there.

"Talkzone is staffed by caring workers who are experienced in dealing with a wide range of issues. They've probably dealt with every problem and question under the sun.

"If you're a young person and need to discuss anything, you can ring, text or email and one of our advisers will help."

Experienced

Manager of Talkzone, Gaja Gannon, added: "We have qualified and experienced staff on hand, who are used to dealing with anything and everything that young people call about. They really can talk about any worries, whatever they might be.

"Talkzone can help young people with family and relationship issues; anxiety; homelessness; contraceptives; drugs and alcohol advice; or information about finding a job.

"No matter how big or small the issue is, Talkzone is available to help all young people in Lancashire."

Talkzone can be contacted by telephone on 0800 511111; by text on 07786 511111; by email at talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk; or by visiting www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ.

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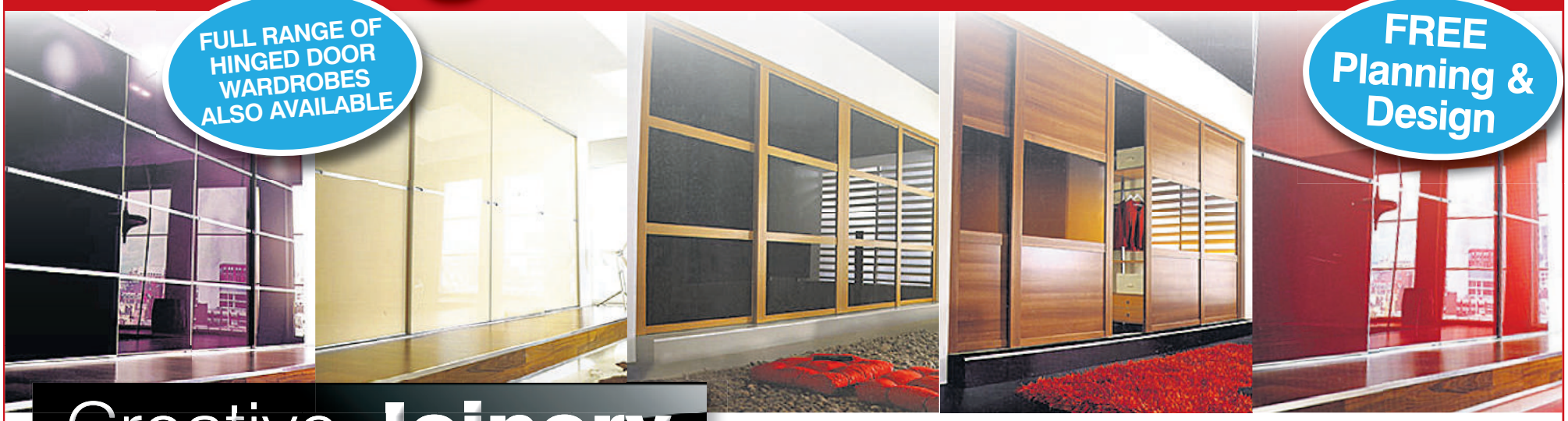

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

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Group to stage political drama

THE SDC are to stage A Letter of Resignation at the Little Theatre in Southport.

Hugh Whitemore's play looks at Harold Macmillan's private life, notably his wife Dorothy's affair with the bisexual Scottish peer, Lord Boothby.

The play opens on Friday, February 23 until Saturday, March 3 at 7.30p.m. Tickets from the Box Office Tel. 01704 530521/530460.

The cast of Back to Bacharach

Win pair of tickets to see show

BACK to Bacharach celebrates the magical music of Burt Bacharach, one of the most accomplished popular composers of the 20th century, who together with Hal David penned some of the most memorable and iconic hits that stand the test of time and the Champion has two pairs of tickets for the show to give away.

Our lucky winners will also win a two course meal at one of Southport's newest restaurants before the show - Bistrot Pierre. They will enjoy a bottle of wine as well.

This production is coming to Southport theatre on Friday, March 2 at 7.30pm and is performed by four of the finest west end singers accompanied by The Magic Moments Orchestra recreating Burt Bacharach's timeless hits.

Songs featured in the show include: Alfie, Anyone Who Had A Heart, Arthur's Theme, Always Something There To Remind Me, Close To You, I Say A Little Prayer For You, Magic Moments, Walk On By, What's New Pussycat?, 24 Hours from Tulsa, Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head and many more. Songs everyone will remember and fall in love with again.

The cast and crew of Back to Bacharach production are official partners with Breast Cancer Now, and have raised more than £10,000 to date with their next target being £15,000. The cast of Back to Bacharach are very passionate and take great pride not only in the show, raising funds and awareness for this worthy cause, but also to give something back to the local community.

To be in with a chance of winning the tickets and meal, answer the following question. Which famous Liverpool singer had a hit with Alfie? Answers to Champion Newspapers, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 OQA. The closing date for the competition is Friday, February 23 at 12 noon. The editor's decision is final.

TIMEWELL'S .co.uk

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*Welsh Highland Railway
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Sun 14th Oct £109
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WHAT'S ON AT SOUTHPORT THEATRE

FEBRUARY

16 HELLO AGAIN - THE STORY OF NEIL DIAMOND
17 MONEY FOR NOTHING — Europe's No.1 Dire Straits show
21 MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL — Starring Cheryl Fergison (EastEnders) and Maureen Nolan (The Nolans)
22 THE ROCKET MAN — A tribute to Sir Elton John
23 THE ROLLING STONES STORY
24 RUSSELL WATSON: CANZONI D'AMORE

MARCH

01 MACCA: THE CONCERT — Celebrating the music of Paul McCartney and the Beatles
02 BACK TO BACHARACH — A night of memorable and iconic hits
03 THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
12/13 TIDDLER AND OTHER TERRIFIC TALES — Live music, puppetry & colourful characters from Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's best-loved titles. Four performances over two days. Suitable for all ages
17 THE HOLLIES
18 THE BARRICADE BOYS — Stars of Les Misérables live in one revolutionary concert
19 YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND — Celebrating the music of James Taylor and Carole King

MARCH CONT

20 JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT - WHO'S BAD — Show dedicated to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson
21 SMOKIE
22 JOE LONGTHORNE
23 THINK FLOYD
24 KATHERINE RYAN - GLITTER ROOM
27 ENGLAND LEGENDS LIVE — An evening with Peter Reid, Peter Beardsley and Phil Thompson
28 DUSTY AND THE SHADES OF THE 60S — Celebrating the life and music of one of the most iconic female artistes of our time
29 WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT — A stunning celebration of the music, the life, the star
30 HEATWAVE & THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE, GWEN DICKEY

APRIL

04 JAMES BOND CONCERT SPECTACULAR — The best music from the 007 movies
07 LES MCKEOWN AND THE LEGENDARY BAY CITY ROLLERS
13 JASON MANFORD - MUDDLE CLASS
26 THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES — The ultimate guitar show paying homage to Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Brian May and many more
27/28 BILL BAILEY

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*Calls cost 7p pm plus your phone company's access charge. Fees apply. Details correct at time of print.
www.atgtickets.com/southport*

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

Comedian continues second leg of his tour

Comedian Ed Byrne

ED Byrne continues the second leg of his biggest ever tour to date of his total sell-out Edinburgh Fringe show Spoiler Alert and will be at The Atkinson in Southport on Saturday, April 28.

He said: "I originally intended to call the show, I'll Millennial You in a Minute, but my promoter considered the title 'off-puttingly baffling'."

Ed explores the thin line between righteous complaining and brat-like whining and asks, 'are we right to be fed up, or are we spoiled?' Byrne takes this question, turns it upside down and shakes it until the funny falls out.

Recognised as one of the finest observational comics in the industry, Ed's television credits include: Have I Got News For You, The Graham Norton Show, Live At The Apollo, The One Show, Comic Relief Bake Off 2015, The World's Most Dangerous Roads and, most recently, he and Dara O Briain filmed the follow up to their Big Adventure show for BBC2 entitled Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay.

He also frequently appears on the TV programme Mock The Week, which is a BBC stand-up comedy show. He is the most common guest panellist on the series and as of July 2016 he has appeared in more than 40 episodes.

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3 NTS Friday

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Apr 27	£129.95
May BH 25	£129.95
Jun 22	£129.95
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Mar 12	£189.95
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May BH 7, 14, 21, BH 28	£119.95
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£119.95

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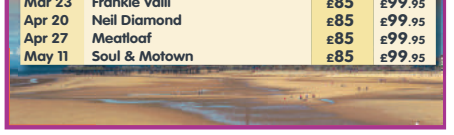
Mar 16	Dreamboats & Petticoats	£85	£99.95
Mar 23	Frankie Valli	£85	£99.95
Apr 20	Neil Diamond	£85	£99.95
Apr 27	Meatloaf	£85	£99.95
May 11	Soul & Motown	£85	£99.95



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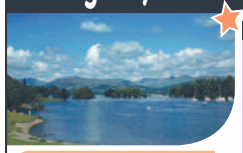

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2 NTS Friday

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Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£65
May 11, 18 May	£75

3 NTS Friday

Feb ♥16, 23	£79.95
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23	£79.95
Mar BH 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£99.95
May BH 4 Victorian Extravaganza, 11, 18	£109.95
May BH 25, Jun 1, 8, 15, 22	£129.95
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£129.95
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£129.95

4 NTS Monday

Feb 19, 26	£99.95
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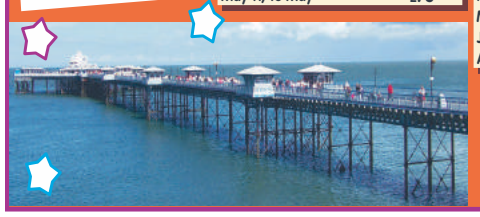
Apr BH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£129.95
May BH 7, 14, 21	£149.95
May BH 28, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£169.95
Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£169.95
Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£169.95



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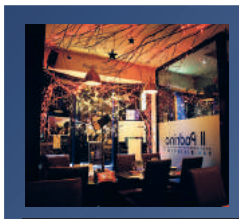

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or Email: kendixon34@hotmail.com
Website: www.mojoguitarshows.co.uk

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CLOTHING

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BLACK SUEDE BOOTS Ladies Red Herring real suede low heel knee high size 5 no zip style £20 no text withheld number 07504685036

FERRARI JACKET MENS RED FERRARI JACKET SIZE XL IN NEW CONDITION.ORIGINAL ITEM WITH LOGOS £30 0151 5262502

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LARGE MIRROR Decorative gold coloured wooden frame. 51.25 INCHES X 51.25 INCHES SQUARE. £50 01704560150

PATIO DOORS Double glazed, white, sizes 2470 x 3085 & 2075 x 1665, locks and keys included, £250.00 07986 135173

PINK BED hot pink solid metal bed frame with a heart on the head and foot of the frame £25 07849969950

RECLINE CHAIR Rise & recline chair fully automatic and in good working order £50 ono 01704 876947

STAINLESS STEEL Table top cooker, 18" wide, 11" deep, 10" high, perfect working order £25 Formby 01704 878805

STOKERS Italian leather, three seater settee and chair, good condition £350 ONO 07803 707934

TV STAND Black glass TV stand 42" wide 19" height 18" deep, with two shelves. As new £25. 07968455789

VAC Easy empty air track, small no bags needed, good condition, Burgundy colour £35 07775294968

WALL LIGHTS 4 double lights in silver/grey ornate excellent condition with wall fixings £40 01704220356

LOGIK WASHING MACHINE £65
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CABINET SHELF Darkwood & record storage within, on castors, 31" wide, 18 1/2 deep, 32 1/2 high, v. good condition. Formby £55 ono 01704 878805

CAKE STANDS 5 stands one tier stands very unusual styles £20 great for occasions weddings etc no withheld number or text 07504685036

CAPTAINS CHAIR (office) chair, green, padded, leather, swivel, adjustable height, top of range. Cost £395. Sell as new £75 01704 220938

CEILING LIGHTS Two top-quality Glass Pendant Ceiling Lights with brass fittings plus three matching wall-lights. Perfect condition. £20.00 01704 893484

COFFEE TABLE Teak with 2 tables and drinks cabinet below. Top swivels to double its size. H21 W34.5 D19.5 inches. £60 ono 0151 9321725

CONSOLE TABLE Glass top modern design H29in W48 D18in £80 also matching coffee table H18x48x26 £80 Lamp table H21x26x22 £60 01695 576078

CUBE RATTAN Effect 4 seater patio set black high back chairs cream cushions glass top table 112 x 112 as new £85 01704530937

CURTAINS brand new in packaging cream with red flower with tie backs tailor made fully lined width 46" drop 90" £30 07849969950

DINING TABLE with 4 dark brown leather chairs.
Table extends to seat 6. H72 W59-78 D32 inches. £80 ono 0151 9321725

DINING TABLE Teak seating 8 when extended. 3 Cane conservatory chairs. Wardrobe with fitted mirror from Stokers 01704 895466

DOLCE GUSTO nescafe coffee machine Automatic in black. Gift from nescafe. Used twice cost over £100 bargain£40 01704220356

HOUSE AND HOME

DUNELM CURTAINS Luxury Satin Lined Natural Cream Chenille 2 pairs 52" wide x 72" drop. Condition as new Can Split.£48.00. 01772 437101

FRIDGE FREEZER ,black , 600mm wide, 650mm deep , 1870 mm tall , sale due to kitchen alteration . £85.00 ono 01704 540504

HALL TABLES 2 No Matching Semi Circular Hall Tables with Detailed Glass Inset Tops, Light Wood Finish, Any Reasonable Offer Accepted 0151 2341794

HANDMADE CURTAINS Size 54ins x 120ins cost £500 sell £100 v.g.c unique buy, lined box pleat light grey, lilac, silver 07882532664

ICE CREAM and sorbet maker by Duronic 1.2L capacity clear viewable lid Brand New/ boxed with instructions and accessories bargain £15 01704220356

LEATHER SETTEES 2 two seater dark brown reclining leather settees, immaculate condition, smoke and pet free home £400 ono 01704 380207

MAHOGANY BOOKCASE 6ft high X 3ft wide,good condition and quality,NOT cheap flatpack type,4 adjustable shelves. £50. 01704 530137

PINE BENCH Antique school or hall bench 6 ft long, in original condition, folds flat when not in use £75 could deliver 07731946207

PUNCH BOWL Silver plated on copper,large embossed pattern,with 12 matching cups,large tray and ladle,made by Viners. £85. 01704 530137

SMALL OCCASIONAL table Dark brown. Round with scalloped edge/storage space+one small drawer. Circa 1950s. £30 07855222552

TEAK TABLE Round table 42 makes into large oval table either 62 or 82 removable leaves. 4 chairs and 2 carvers. Excond 07754057721

TV TABLE black glass, two shelves, chrome legs, 80cm, very good condition, free to first caller if delivery needed £5 01695 729564

TWO MATCHING ceiling lights in wood and brass each with three lights and glass shades will sell separately may deliver £16 ono 01515263851

CLOAKROOM BASIN Small corner basin (porcelain) no taps/waste, new unused, still boxed. Suitable for utility room/cloakroom, £15. Surplus to requirements. 0151286 0268

COFFEE TABLE Glass top modern design H18in W48 D26in £80 also matching Lamp table H21in W26 D22in £60 and Console table H29in W48 D18in £80 01695 576078

CONSERVATORY SUITE Excellent condition, from Stokers, 2 seater sofa, armchair, swivel rocker chair & footstool, glass topped table, all cushions reversible £150 01704 889171

DIMPLEX CONVECTORS 2 Wall mounted Heaters.Timer.Thermostat. 17.5"w x 16.5"h 750Watt Good condition Cream Colour. £15.00 each or two for £25.00 01772 437101

DUNELM CURTAINS Pair Luxury Satin Lined Natural Cream Chenille. Pencil Pleat. Warm Heavy Quality 77" wide x 71" Drop Excellent Condition £38.00 01772 437101

FRAMED PAINTINGS Large/small oils, water colours, prints, various prices, all in very good condition. Email pictures available, buyer collects. 0151 2860268

GOOD QUALITY Matching Solid Mahogany TV Unit, Sideboard & Coffee Table, High Polish Finish, Originally Paid £1500 will accept £400 Buyer to Collect 0151 2341794

KITCHEN BIN Large Addis bin with detachable lift lid. neutral beige. Size 22in tall, 15in wide and 12in deep (front to back). In very good, clean condition. £10.00 01704 546978

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HOUSE AND HOME

LAMP TABLE Glass top modern design H21in W26in D22in £60 also matching Coffee Table H18x48x26in £80 and Console table H29inx48x18in £80 01695 576078

NATUZZI EDITIONS brown leather suite comprising of 3 seater + 2 seater + footstool, perfect condition non-smokers - 4 years old - £650.00 ono tel. 01695 572426

PINE BOOKCASE Nice solid pine bookcase 6 foot high 10 depth 35 wide with five 9 depth shelves, nice shape, strong and in very good condition.£89-00 07387439004

BATHROOM ACCESSORIES Several Gold Plated Accessories. Good quality, used but good condition. Soap dishes, tumbler holder, shower holdall, glass shelf plus fittings. £45.00 07759374064

CLOAKROOM TOILET SUITE Close Couple Toilet with seat, cistern, corner washbasin and ceramic soap holder with towel ring. Fitted for 3 months then stored. wispa cream. £75. May deliver 01704560150

CREAM CURTAINS To fit pole 92in(234cm) wide 82in drop(208cm) Self coloured satin stitch pattern sheen finish. Fully lined, Pinch pleat heading John Lewis made to measure £100 01695 576078

LAMP SHADES Two good quality ceiling light shades from BHS, Cream with scolloped edge and Wedgwood Blue with scolloped edge. one new side table lamp shade, will separate. Aintree.£10.00 07387439004

MISC

CHARLES DICKENS Hard back books £20 0151 5262748

NYLON ROPE Soft strong £5 01704 893569

CHEFETTE Kenwood in box unwanted gift £20 (ideal wedding present) 0151 5262748

DEEP FRYER Brand new & steamer £25 for both 0151 5271944

FENDER STARCASTER Electric acoustic guitar, very good condition £125 07814 380735

FOOT SPA boots No 7 foot spa as new used once £15 07931870983

GAMES BARRELL Mahogany games barrel,REMY MARTIN. £50 01704 875561

MIRROR ORNATE hall/bedroom mirror 20 inc x 31 inc cost £130 as new £30 07931870983

PC MONITOR AOC 20" LCD monitor. Model ref. TFT20W90PS £20 01695421338

PETROL CAN With brass stopper, old type, £££ open to offers 01704 893569

MISC

REMY MARTIN Wooden 'Make Four' game box. £20 01704 875561

REMY MARTIN wooden writing bureau, opens out for use on desk. £30 01704 875561

X6 BAGS Dried, seasoned, cut logs, approx 20kg per bag £20 for the lot 07967 144971

BRAUN SHAVER three cutting heads/long hair cutter. Includes instructions, charging cradle and cord like new £25 01704220356

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FOOT MASSAGER Homedics shiatsu foot massager with heat infrared heat as new used once £25 07931870983

GOLF CLUBS Wilson Ultra DCG Irons 5-6-7-8-9-pw-sw nice condition bargain £40 01515319425/07773242918

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POLICE JEEP child's electric ride on police jeep two seats suit age 3-7 years very little use good condition £50. 01704 576856

SAMSONITE SUITCASE Includes key lock, centre divider, 3 pockets 21"w x 17"d x 6.5"h £15 07985050276 (Ainsdale)

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Informal discussion: Mrs Hodgson 01257 462968
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RANGE HIGH SCHOOL
Stapleton Rd, Formby L37 2YN
Tel: 01704 879315
Headteacher: Mr G Aldridge MA (Oxon), MEd

REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

COVER SUPERVISOR
Cover Supervisor – 17.4 hours per week (3 days per week), term-time only (Scale E - £7,346 to £8,186 – pay award pending)

Working Tuesday to Thursday in the School's Cover Team, duties will include the supervision of students during the absence of their class teacher. Previous relevant experience will be an advantage.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR
7.5 hours per week, term-time only (Scale B - £2,630 per annum – pay award pending)

Working as part of a team, duties will include the supervision of students using the dining and packed lunch areas during lunchtime.

EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS
CASUAL CONTRACT

(£8.96 per hour including a holiday pay allowance of 12.15% - pay award pending)

We are looking for a number of people to join our staff invigilating the School's examinations, both internal and external, throughout the year. The main examination periods are during November and April to June. Relevant experience would be an advantage, however, full training will be given.

Range High is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children so the successful candidate must be able to obtain a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure (via the Disclosure and Barring Service) to be appointed.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school's website at : www.range.sefton.sch.uk

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Announcements

PRAYERS

Johnson
Edward (Eddie)
15th February 2011
To hear your voice and see you smile,
to sit with you and chat a while,
That is what we wish today,
Dad in our hearts
you will always stay.
Miss and love you always
Gary, Angela, Abbie & Chloe
XXXX

Johnson
Edward (Eddie)
15th February 2011
We miss you Grandad in so many ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
and when old times we do recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.
Grandson Phil, Kelly and great grandson Daniel
XXX

Johnson
Edward (Eddie)
15th February 2011
We miss his smile,
his kindly ways,
With him we spent such happy days,
We miss him when we need a friend,
on him we always could depend
Granddaughter Alison and Great Granddaughter Aimeé x x

Johnson
Edward (Eddie)
15th February 2011

I miss talking to you,
I miss the laughter,
I miss our trips out,
I miss my Dad.

But Dad,
As long as I have memories,
As long as I have tears,
You'll never be forgotten,
Not in a million years

Loving daughter
San and Alec
x x

Johnson
Edward (Eddie)
15th February 2011
Some gifts in life are big and some are small,
But to have had you in our lives Dad,
was the greatest gift of all.
Love Son Alan and Carol
x x

Announcements

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

MD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NAYLOR BARBARA ELIZABETH (NEE LARGE)

Barbara's family would like to thank the Rev. Andrew Housley and everyone who attended the funeral for their support, which was of great comfort at this sad time. Sincere thanks to all the family, friends and neighbours for their support, sympathy, messages of condolance and donations, all of which are gratefully appreciated. Also thanks to Melanie and her team at H.Hardman & Co for their care and kindness.

DICKINSON GORDON JOHN

The family of the late Gordon would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations received for Dementia UK. Grateful thanks to John Milton for a beautiful Funeral Service. Special thanks to Sally Hunter for her personal, caring & comforting touch and to all the team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the professional and compassionate Funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RIGBY EDWARD

23rd January 2018

The family wish to thank everyone who attended Eddie's funeral service and for the kind messages of sympathy received at this sad time, very much appreciated. Thank you also for donations received for Kidney Research UK.

TAYLOR RAMON

The family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kindness, support and generous donations given for Diabetes UK. Sincere thanks to the A&E Department at Southport Hospital along with all the staff on Ward 7A for doing everything you could. Thank you also to Dovehaven Care Home and Rowan Tree Lodge for the care given. Grateful thanks to Rev. Martin Abrams for the comforting funeral service and to Derek Crawford and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for the thoughtful funeral arrangements.

ESPLEY ALAN

Pat and family would like to thank family and friends for their support over Alan's long illness. Thanks to everyone who attended his funeral. We were overwhelmed. Thanks to Dean Brothers for their care and professionalism, and to Carol Edwards who took the service. Our grateful thanks go to Formby District Nurses and Macmillan Nurses for their wonderful care to Alan over those last weeks. Many thanks also for donations in Alan's name to the Cancer Charities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TASKER MARGARET OLIVE

The family of the late Olive would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the kind expressions of sympathy, cards, and donations for the Alzheimer's Society, received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Mum, Grandma and Great-Grandma. Special thanks to the staff at Aughton Park Care home for all their kindness and care, Inita Mazlavska for the lovely Funeral Service, and Louis Hunter & team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their help and dignified Funeral arrangements.

BRANDON SUSAN (SUE)

29th January 2018

Bill, Lorna and our respective families would like to express their sincere thanks to those that attended Sue's funeral and for all the sympathy cards and kind messages of condolence received. The support and love shown was a great comfort to us all. Also thank you all for your kind donations for Queenscourt Hospice in memory of Sue. We would also like to thank John Milton for conduction the service, Lisa Hunter and all the staff at MLS Independent Funeral Directors of Aughton for their compassion and care at this difficult time, and the staff at The Royal Oak PH in Aughton for their hard work in ensuring that the wake ran smoothly.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

CLAYTON DAVID EDWARD

5th February 2018
peacefully in hospital
aged 76 years

Much loved Husband of Carole. Dear Father of James. Dear Father-in-law of Tara. Devoted Grandfather of Olivia and Sam. All further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770

RUDGE JOAN

February 7th 2018
Peacefully in Hospital with family present
Aged 87 years

Re-united with her loving Husband Billy & Sons Billy & Ian, Much loved Mum of Ronnie & Jean. Devoted Nanna to all her Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren. Will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. Service & Cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Friday February 16th at 3:20pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Dementia UK c/o David Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherland L21 2PA Tel: 0151 928 6665

O'BRIEN JOSEPH (Joe)

February 7th 2018
Peacefully at Home with family
Aged 78 years

Dear Husband of the late Phyllis. Brother of May, Kathleen & Mickey. Much loved uncle to all his Nieces & Nephews. Will be very sadly missed. Service & cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Tuesday February 20th at 11:20am. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to David Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherand L21 2PA Tel: 0151 928 6665

DEATHS

POULTER ALICE

8th February 2018
Aged 82 years

Died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Much loved Mum of David and Mother-in-law of Sue. Loving partner of Fred, cherished Sister of Bob. Devoted Auntie to all her Nieces and Nephews. Alice will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 21st February at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ISHERWOOD VIVIENNE

7th February 2018
Aged 96 years

Passed away peacefully Vivienne will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Service at St Luke's Parish Church on Tuesday 20th February at 10:30am followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Flowers welcome. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

TATHAM BARBARA IRENE

8th February 2018
Aged 76 years

Died peacefully. Loving wife of the late Gerald. Much loved Mum of Karen, Jeanette and the late Glenys. Adored partner of Jim. Cherished Nana of Michelle, Brett, Craig, Susan, Kelly, Scott, Liam, Owen, Calum and Isobel. Devoted Great Nana of Annabella, Rosalie, James and Harry. Barbara will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 19th February at 3:20pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

GRIFFIN MICHAEL PATRICK

80 years
Sadly passed away
3rd February 2018

Loving Husband of Valerie, Father to Julie, Alan and Terry and will be missed by family and all who knew him. Funeral service to take place West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 16th February at 4pm Family flowers only please, however donations if desired are gratefully being received for Lancashire Sports Partnership. Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

WHITTAKER HENRY

On 30th January 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 71 years

Loving Husband of Sandra, devoted Dad of Tracy and Karl, cherished Grandad of Mia and Hollie, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place today Wednesday 14th February at West Lancashire Crematorium at 11:30am. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

BOLTON MARJORIE

2nd February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 79 years

Loving Wife of the late Alan, devoted Mum of Barry, Julie, Gillian and Tracey. Dear Mother In Law of Kevin and Colin, cherished Nan and Great Nan of all her Grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 15th February at 2:30pm, family flowers only please by request donations if desired for Cancer Research. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

QUANE PAULINE

On 3rd February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
In her 80th year
R.I.P.

Beloved Mum, Sister and Auntie, and will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Requiem mass will take place at St. Maries Church on Wednesday 21st February at 12:00 noon, followed by the Committal at Southport Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel 01704 214118.

NELSON WALTER JOHN (FCA)

Passed away
2nd February 2018
Aged 78 years

It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Walter on 2nd February 2018 at Southport General Hospital. He was a former Financial and Company Secretary for Radio City Liverpool and President of Merseyside Cricket Umpires Association. "Walter will be very sadly missed by all who knew and loved him" Funeral Service will take place on Friday 23rd February 2018 at 10.30 am at St. Richards R.C. Church Skelmersdale followed by interment at Yew Tree Cemetery. Each Night we shed a silent tear, as we speak to you in prayer to let you know we love you and just how much we care, take our million teardrops wrap them up in love, then ask the wind to carry them to you in Heaven above. Love Debbie, Alan and Samantha. All enquiries to R. Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd., Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, Up Holland, Wigan, WN8 0PB. Tel. (01695) 622099. www.rbanksandson.co.uk

DEATHS

TOWNSEND AUDREY

8th February 2018
Peacefully at Green Heys Nursing Home Aged 87 years After a long illness

Audrey will be sadly missed by all her family. Funeral service at All Saints with St Frideswyde Church on Friday February 23rd at 1pm. All enquiries to H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel: 0151 924 4805

CULSHAW (NEE BOWLES) JUDY

6th February 2018
Passed away peacefully at home, in Aughton, Aged 84 years.

Loving Wife of the late Peter Culshaw. Loving & Loved Mum, Gran & Sister. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Rufford on Friday 16th February at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for Alzheimer's Research. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tele: 01695 424888.

VALENTINE GERARD ARTHUR (GERRY)

Passed away
2nd February 2018
Aged 82 years

Husband of the late Susan Valentine, much loved Dad of Mark, Mathew, Judith and Step Dad of Frank. Loving Grandad of Grace, Edward, Emma, Jack and Ian, and Great Grandad of Joey. 'We will all miss you Dad.' Funeral service to be held at Southport Crematorium on Friday 23rd February at 11.20am. Donations if desired the British Heart Foundation.

Announcements

Births · Deaths · Marriages · Engagements · Congratulations · In Memorium · Anniversaries

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DEATHS

EDGAR NORMAN

Died peacefully in hospital with his sons by his side, following a short illness, on

5th February 2018

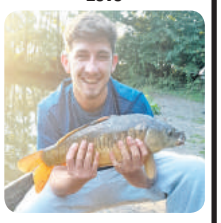
Aged 90 years

Devoted Husband of the late Thelma, loving Dad of Neil and Craig and Father in law of Karen, and adoring Grandad of Maddison and Jackson. He will be loved and missed forever by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at St John's C.E. Church, Burscough, on Tuesday 20th February 2018 at 1.00 pm followed by a private family burial at Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool. Family flowers only by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough. Tel: 01704 891555

DEATHS

WHITTLE JOE

Passed Away 24th January 2018



Loving Son of Jane & Keith, Brother to Rozz, Michelle & Annabelle and Uncle to Ruby-Jane.

Funeral Service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 16th February at 1pm.

Please come dressed as if having a night out with Joe.

Family Flowers only however donations are kindly being received for MIND.

Further enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

DEATHS

SMITH REGINA ALICE

8th February 2018

Peacefully at Asmall Hall Nursing Home, Ormskirk

Aged 98 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Arthur, loving Mum of Shirley and Brian, dear Mother in law of Bill and Carol, devoted Grandma of Carol, Billy and Linda and Great Grandma to Bradley, Hannah and Livvy. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman, H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick Tel: 01695 722122 or 720012

DEATHS

JONES LINDA

Passed away on the 31st January 2018 peacefully at home.

Loving partner of Dave, dearly loved Mother to David and Sharon, Grandmother to Jade, Jessica, Sophie and Ellie. Loving Sister to John, Jean and Maureen. Will be deeply missed. Funeral will be held at Ormskirk Parish Church on the 20th February at 2pm and then to the Golden Lion in Ormskirk for those who would like to remember Linda. Flowers are welcome or if prefered donations to the British Heart Foundation c/o Hunters Funeral Directors, Ormskirk.

Family Announcement? **01704 392392**

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Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of three lengths of the unnamed footpath lying to the west of Evenwood Court and to the east of Northway (informally on the line of old Houghtons Lane) at Skelmersdale, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development as permitted by West Lancashire Borough Council under reference 2017/0663/FUL.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Skelmersdale Library, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6NL in the 28 days commencing on 14 February 2018, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/3196.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **14 March 2018**. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.

G Patrick, Casework Manager

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- Green Lane, Green Lane Avenue, Hants Lane, Pennington Avenue, Rosecroft Close, Southport Road, The Avenue
- County Road, Croftson Avenue, High Lane, Yew Tree Road

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- Back Lane, Course Lane, New Acres, Sandy Close, Sandy Lane, Tears Lane

PARBOLD
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LITTLE DIGMOOR
- Abbeystead, Abbeywood, Acregate

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/1100/FUL Conversion and use of barn ancillary to farm house including alterations and extension and change of use of land to residential use at Stand Farm, Spa Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2017/1332/FUL Change of use of the building and associated land edged red to ancillary residential use at Stand Farm, Spa Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2018/0121/FUL Increase height of curved wall returns connecting to gate piers from 0.6 metres to 1.3 metres at 20 Granville Park, Aughton.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 14th February 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT985

LOTTERY RESULTS

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Friday 9th February 2018

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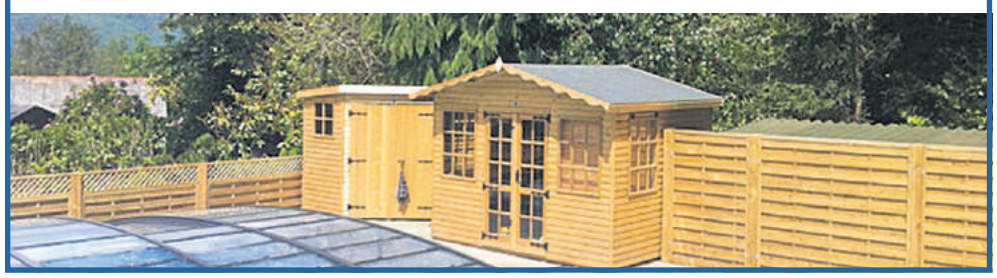

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Five year wait is over - but the only way is Up for Volkswagen!

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The Up GTI is the smallest hot hatch Volkswagen makes

IT'S the sort of late landing an Irish budget airline would be proud of.

There's arriving fashionably late – and then there's the Volkswagen Up GTI.

Connoisseurs of pint-sized and spiced-up hatchbacks might have already read that as of this week the smallest of Wolfsburg GTI-badged wonders has just gone on sale across the UK.

You might have also read in the motoring mags about how it copes tremendously with tight turns, and seen James May making excitable squawking noises while driving it on The Grand Tour.

But the fact remains that Volkswagen first started promising us a spruced-up version of the teeny-tiny up way back in 2013, at a time when I was actually using a bog-standard Up as a company car.

I can only assume that Volkswagen was being considerate by teasing us with it in concept car form – albeit missing that elusive third letter and badged as just the GT then – so it could give press-on drivers like me the chance to save up for it.

Which is a good thing, because even in the poverty spec guise I reckon the Up's the best car VW currently makes (especially now that the Scirocco has been pensioned off).

But all those years of teasing car nuts with the idea of an Up with added oomph has given the rest of the motoring world time to catch up.

For a few hundred pounds less, for instance, you can have the Renault Twingo GT, which follows roughly the same formula but sticks the engine behind the rear seats and spits all the power out through the rear wheels.

So basically it's a Porsche 911 that's more practical and easier to park. There's also the Smart ForFour Brabus, which uses the same engine as the Twingo in a much heavier package and slaps on a £20k price tag for the privilege. Erm, and that's about it.

Sure, there's a new Suzuki Swift Sport on the way too but it's astonishing that there's no Sport spinoff of Ford's Ka+ and that Vauxhall's VXR boffins haven't got their hands on an Adam.

There's no GTI twist on Peugeot's 108 or a VTS variant of its sister car, the Citroen C1. Even VW hasn't extended the GTI fun factor to the Up's extended cousins – why isn't SEAT doing a Mii Cupra, or Skoda Citigo vRS?

Hot hatches inject a sparkle of excitement into the all-too-often anodyne world of front-wheel-drive supermarket companions, and the smaller and lighter they start off the more fun and immediate they end up being in GTI form.

Come on carmakers, let's have some more!

Until then the only way is Up, even if it is five years late. Or to a Twingo GT, if you're being awkward.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly.

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Skelmersdale battle bravely but come away empty handed

South Shields 3
Skelmersdale United 1

Jordan Darr on the attack for Skem. Pictures by John Driscoll

SKELMERSDALE United put in a brave performance at high flying South Shields but came away empty handed, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

After going behind in the sixth minute to a massively deflected goal, Dave Powell's young team levelled with a penalty and given luck might even have grabbed the lead before Shields re-established their advantage just after the interval.

The hosts got a third killer goal via a highly debateable penalty on the hour, but still Skem pushed on and by the end they had won some friends for their spirited performance.

Skelmersdale came close to taking the lead inside two minutes. Tom Hulme intercepted a loose pass and played the ball into the path of Jordan Darr who was making a diagonal run from the right. After dodging a lunging tackle Darr saw his right-footed shot from an angle deflect past home goalkeeper Liam Connell's right-hand post.

South Shields' sixth minute goal came off their first really viable attack of the game. Craig Baxter crossed from the right and Skelmersdale cleared poorly, even then when midfielder Robert Briggs ran onto the ball and shot from 20 yards it was likely that Skem goalkeeper Lee Callum Roberts would have saved. However, the ball took a massive deflection, spinning high into the air then dropping into the net behind Roberts.

When Skelmersdale equalised on 25 minutes it was from the penalty spot. The move that made that possible was a run by Darr that had home defender Dillon Morse on the back foot. Julio Arca came across to help him out and clumsily tripped Darr and it was a clear penalty.

Mike Roddy sent home keeper Connell the wrong way with his spot kick.

As you would expect South Shields were having more of the possession but not by a lot and Skem were continuing to pose a threat.

In the 48th minute Shields struck. Briggs came in from the left and after an exchange of passes with half-time substitute Jack Devlin had a shot blocked, however, the ball came straight back to him. This time Briggs lifted a precise chip over Roberts into the net behind him to make it 2-1.

Then came the debateable penalty. Matty Pattison had the ball at his feet on the right of the eighteen yard box when Liam Hollett closed him down. Pattison put his shoulder into Hollett and fell to the ground, with the referee pointing to the penalty spot.

If it was a penalty it was a manufactured one, as Pattison had made the move to connect with Hollett not the other way around.

The result was Briggs driving the spot kick low into net just inside Roberts's left-hand post.

At 3-1 down Skelmersdale had a mountain to climb, they couldn't but it was not for lack of trying.

Skem's George Withe made home keeper Connell pull off decent save in the latter stages. But Shields closed the game down like the experienced outfit they are.

Lee Callum Roberts safely grabs the ball.

Linnets hope to pull away from drop zone

FANS of Skelmersdale United and Burscough face road trips to watch their sides this weekend as both teams have away games.

Skelmersdale make another trip over the Pennines to visit Scarborough Athletic while Burscough make the slightly shorter trip to Gorton in Manchester where they will play Abbey Hey.

Both are important games for the clubs as they look to improve their lot in their respective leagues.

The last three games have seen Skem draw 0-0 at promotion chasing Bamber Bridge, rather unluckily lose 2-1 at massively in-form Colne and go down 3-1 away to Evo-Stik Division One North leaders South Shields.

Scarborough Athletic are the phoenix club from the ashes of former Football League club Scarborough and they are heavily backed by the people of the town. They won 4-1 at Stormy Corner back in September, so they represent tough opposition for the young Skelmersdale side.

There might though be a lifeline for all the clubs in Evo-Stik Division One North as it was announced this week that Ossett Town and Ossett Albion are to merge.

However, when the Champion spoke to Skelmersdale United secretary Alan Greenhalgh this week he was in the dark about the implications of this news.

He said: "The way I understand it, the league are waiting for an FA decision, we understood that only one team would be going down, but that is subject to change.

"The announcement from Ossett was not all that clear and we don't know whether it will count for the end of this season or the end of next season. Geographically the FA has not told us where the leagues will divide nationally yet, so we just don't know who will be in what division."

The changes will have implications for Burscough.

The North West Counties League is to move from two divisions to three (one Premier and a First Division North and South, each of 20 clubs).

This Saturday the Linnets are away to Abbey Hey, another team in the same boat as Burscough, so it is a big game.

Burscough's game at Maine Road was postponed last weekend due to the weather and has been rearranged for Saturday, February 24 in Manchester.

The next game at Victoria Park is against Ashton Athletic on Tuesday, February 27 kick off 7.45pm.

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